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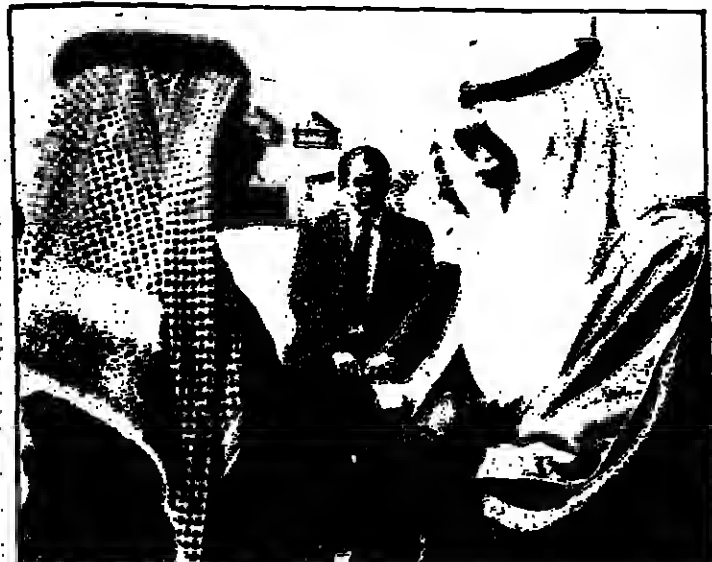
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NO. 7805 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1990/SHA'ABAN 3, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILLS



Hussein ends visit

HH the Amir bidding farewell to King Hussein of Jordan (left), who left Kuwait yesterday after a visit aimed at forging a unified Arab stand against Jewish emigration to Israel.

The Amir, who is also the supreme commander of the army and the armed forces, yesterday morning patronised the inauguration ceremony of the armed forces hospital. King Hussein was also present during the inauguration.



Dignified speech

At the end, tears sparkled in the eyes of Daniel Ortega when his wife hugged him from behind and kissed his cheek.

But with a stoicism that marked a dignified and reflective speech, the defeated president and revolutionary guerrilla commander held them back.

His chin quivered for an instant at his closing exhortation to continue "forward." He would have blinked, the tears would have trickled down his face.

But he clasped his wife's hand, then rose and raised his arms and smiled broadly — apparently convinced that, as he had just said, the Sandinista revolution and its decade-plus of power was a giant stride for Nicaragua's people, despite the electoral defeat.

"I believe that in this historic moment the principal contribution we Sandinistas, we Nicaraguan revolutionaries, can make to the Nicaraguan people is the guarantee of a pure and clean electoral process, which warrants our consciences," Ortega said.

"Would that this sun rising this 26th of February illuminate the path toward the consolidation of democracy, of a mixed economy, of a free Nicaragua independent and democratic, in peace, not interfered with by any foreign power," he said.

Later, the president visited Mrs Chamorro, and the two got along like dear old friends.

"Pretty daddy, come here, because I love you," Mrs Chamorro said as she ushered Ortega into her home.

Ortega said: "You know that I respect you and love you and congratulate you on your triumph."

"There were neither victors nor vanquished in these elections," Mrs Chamorro told Ortega. "What I want is for all of us to work for the reconciliation of Nicaraguans."

"I am prepared to collaborate on the national reconciliation," he responded. (AP)

Details Page 12

Demonstration in Kashmir: About 70,000 Muslims demanding independence for Kashmir marched on Tuesday through Srinagar and burned copies of the Indian constitution, while militant-set bombs damaged tanks, houses and vehicles but caused no injuries, police said.

In New Delhi, a Foreign Ministry spokesman indicated that India would prohibit a fact-finding visit to Kashmir reportedly planned by a UN official.

The spokesman said the central government was in "broad agreement" with a statement on Monday by a Jammu and Kashmir state official that "no UN official has a legal or moral right to interfere in the internal affairs of the state."

The Statesman newspaper quoted a UN military officer based in the state's summer capital of Srinagar as telling a delegation of pro-secession protesters on Monday that a UN official was planning a visit on March 7 to review the crisis in strife-torn Kashmir.

There was no confirmation from UN headquarters in New York. (UPI)

(Details Page 6)

Kaifu's cabinet: Japan's re-elected Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu completed his new cabinet on Wednesday, retaining Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama despite opposition by ruling party bosses.

Chief cabinet secretary Mitsuji Sakamoto told a news conference that Kaifu Muto, an expert with Japan's industry and business world, had been named to the powerful post of minister of international trade and industry.

Muto will be responsible for negotiations with the United States over how to restructure Japan's export-oriented economy. (Reuters)

(Details Page 6)

Field of golden wheat: Farmers will turn the famed Champ-Elysees into a gigantic field of golden wheat that they will harvest next June in celebration of French agriculture.

The 1.8-hectare (4.5-acre) field will stretch halfway down the avenue — closed to traffic — starting from the Arc de Triomphe.

The wheat already has been planted in specially-designed green houses outside Paris. It is expected to be ripe for picking by June 23, when 1,000 young farmers will truck it into the capital and install it on the Champ-Elysees. (AP)

2,500 detained and indefinite curfew imposed on Bihar

60 die in Indian poll

NEW DELHI, Feb 27, (Reuters): At least 60 people were killed in large-scale violence in the north Indian state of Bihar today during state assembly elections.

The United News of India (UNI) agency said most were killed in clashes between supporters of rival candidates and three died when police fired to stop

people stuffing ballot boxes with fake votes.

Officials in the Bihar state capital Patna confirmed that 37 people had died in clashes, bomb attacks or when police opened fire and said 2,500 people had been arrested.

The detainees included a Congress (I) Party candidate found

carrying an illegal weapon and a polling officer caught stuffing a ballot box with fake ballots, officials said.

More than 10,000 people, alleging widespread rigging, raided the district government office, setting ablaze ballot boxes, breaking furniture and overturning any items they could

lay their hands on, a state government official said.

The Bihar state government slapped an indefinite curfew to maintain peace in the town.

UNI said about 200 people were injured in the clashes in Bihar, one of eight states holding assembly elections which could help decide former Prime Minis-

ter Rajiv Gandhi's political future. Most analysts believe he will lose control of all eight states.

It said one person was also killed during voting in the western state of Gujarat.

An indefinite curfew was imposed in the Bihar town of Muzaffarpur after 10,000 peo-

ple, alleging opposition candidates were being killed, surrounded the office of a local official.

Bihar is notorious for political violence.

Rajiv's Congress Party currently controls all eight states

(Continued on Page 2)

Enrile arrested

Murder, rebellion charges filed: troops on alert

MANILA, Feb 27, (Agencies): Opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, who helped oust dictator Ferdinand Marcos and install Corason Aquino as president, was arrested and charged today with rebellion and murder in connection with a December coup attempt against Aquino.

The indictment of Enrile and six others before a suburban criminal court was the first since the Dec 1-9 uprising and represented Aquino's determination to head off another rebellion threatened by mutineers still at large.

The military put troops on alert throughout Manila and Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos warned against any "violent or illegal action," saying Enrile would get a fair trial.

Enrile surrendered peacefully to director Alfredo Lim of the National Bureau of Investigation, who waited for him in the packed senate until Enrile gave a speech denouncing Aquino and saying the charges against him were "fabricated."

"No jail or prison would stop me from trying my best to voice the grievances of the Filipino people," said the lone opposition senator and, the highest government official to be implicated in the insurrection that transformed downtown Manila into a virtual battlefield.

"Don't touch me. Remove your hands, don't touch me," he snarled at security men who moved to arrest him in the senate lobby.

"I am submitting myself to the arresting officer to avoid any inconvenience. From here on I will be in their custody," Enrile, looking morose and sullen, told reporters.

Enrile said the charges were "a product of invention and fabrication." He described himself as a "sacrificial lamb."

Enrile, 66, a Harvard-trained lawyer, also issued a veiled warning, saying, "I know that those who are

(Continued on Page 2)

Israel will say yes to talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 27, (Reuters): Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said today he was sure the Jewish state would support the latest US proposal for peace talks with Palestinians.

"I believe the proposal will get the support of the majority (of the cabinet)," the decision will be taken in the coming days, in a week or 10 days," Rabin declared.

He was speaking to visiting US Jewish leaders as violence flared for a third day in the occupied Gaza Strip where hospitals reported Israeli troops today shot and wounded at least seven Palestinian demonstrators.

Rabin, a key member of the dovish Labour Party, said the opportunity to move towards peace would not be missed.

The remaining issues of participation of deportees or Arabs from Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem in Israeli-Palestinian talks should not block the dialogue, he said.

"We cannot be obstacles to moving ahead," Rabin said.

"It will not be the first time. There are precedents," he said, citing a decision taken by Ariel Sharon when he was defence minister to return a deportee in 1981.

Rabin said the crucial factor in implementing Israel's diplomatic initiative was the extent to which Palestinians in the occupied territories believed in it.

"Whoever wants to start a peace process in Israel has to start with the Palestinians. There is no other way."

Palestinian leaders Faisal Al Husseini and Sari Nusseibeh warned today that Palestinians would reject any Israeli attempt to exclude Arab East Jerusalem in the peace process.

"No Palestinian would accept any tricks aimed at separating Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank," Nusseibeh said in an interview with the Arabic-language daily Al Quds.

Rabin condemned suggestions by some Israeli leaders that neighbouring Jordan, which has a substantial Palestinian population, could become a Palestinian state.

US Ambassador Robert H. Pelletreau Jr met for the third time this month today with Hakeem Badawi, permanent representative of the PLO in Tunis to discuss the peace process and the immigration of Soviet Jews, PLO sources said.



Enrile addresses reporters in the Senate before his arrest. (Reuters wirephoto)

Dutch on flood alert, but storms weaken

THE HAGUE, Feb 27, (Reuters): The Netherlands went on its most serious flood alert for 37 years today, but West Europe's storms lost most of their killer touch as they left a trail of destruction.

Isolated fatal accidents occurred in France and Switzerland, but there was no repeat of yesterday's scale of disasters when more than 40 people perished.

In Switzerland, two people died in separate accidents when their cars were crushed by falling trees, and elsewhere

two trains were blown off the tracks by high winds.

A high spring tide combined with storms to whip up the sea off the Dutch coast to its highest level since 1953.

In Britain, where 13 people died in accidents in the worst of Monday's storms, hundreds of people have been left homeless and thousands are without electricity as gales lashed the country, flooding coastal areas.

Earlier report Page 7

Nujoma in talks with Amir

KUWAIT, Feb 27, (Kuna): HH the Amir today received the visiting President-elect of Namibia Sam Nujoma.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Osaimi.

Nujoma arrived here last night for talks with Kuwaiti leaders on his country's post-independence programmes.

Namibia attained independence from racist South Africa last November under a UN-brokered plan.

Nujoma, who led the country for independence was elected president of the new state and scheduled to assume office officially in March.

Nujoma, who is also the president of the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), which fought for independence of Namibia, was received on his arrival here by Osaimi and other senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

Weather

FAIR weather with light northwesterly to variable wind.

State of sea: slight

High water: 1.30 am, 2.00 pm

Low water: 8.07 am, 8.22 pm

Sunrise: 6.16 am

Sunset: 5.47 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 21°C 70°F

Ahmad: 19°C 66°F

Falaka: 21°C 70°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 7°C 45°F

Ahmad: 1°C 32°F

Falaka: 10°C 50°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 21°C 70°F

Ahmad: 20°C 68°F

Falaka: 20°C 68°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 56 per cent

Ahmad: 50 per cent

Falaka: 54 per cent

Israel re-opens Warsaw embassy after 23-year break

WARSAW, Feb 27, (Reuters): Israel reopened its embassy in Warsaw today to mark the restoration of diplomatic relations with Poland after a 23-year break.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who earlier exchanged documents with Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski to re-establish diplomatic ties, was joined by his envoy to Poland, Mordechai Palzur, in a simple unveiling ceremony outside the embassy building.

A plaque, bearing the inscription "Embassy of Israel" in Hebrew and French, replaced one which since 1966 had identified the building of the "Israeli interests section," a low-level diplomatic mission.

The building, a two-storey villa in central Warsaw, had been the Israeli embassy until Poland broke ties with Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Poland's Solidarity-led government has called

the rift of mistake, publicly apologised for a 1968 anti-Semitic purge, and offered to restore Polish citizenship to any of the some 30,000 Jews forced to emigrate at that time.

Yugoslavia said today it would set up consular ties with Israel before restoring full diplomatic relations severed 23 years ago.

"The first stage of resuming ties would be the setting up of consular relations," Yugoslav President Jancz Drnovsek told reporters, in Cairo.

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Details inside page



Ball game

Philippine Senator and former defence minister Juan Ponce Enrile (centre) is escorted by National Bureau of Investigation authorities yesterday after being arrested on charges of murder and attempt-

ing to overthrow President Corazon Aquino in a bloody coup attempt last December. (Reuter wire-photo)

Enrile arrested 60 killed in Indian polls

Low turnout

(Continued from Page 1)

involved in the elections, including Bihar and three others — Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan — in the Hindi-speaking belt of north India which dominates Indian politics.

Gujarat, Orissa, Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh and the southern territory of Pondicherry are also voting and a survey conducted last week for the Calcutta-based news magazine Sunday predicted Congress would lose all of them.

Federal Deputy Election Commissioner R.P. Bhalla said in New Delhi that bad weather was largely responsible for estimated turnouts of between 40 per cent and 55 per cent in most areas, save for Pondicherry, where about 65 per cent of voters cast ballots.

"The poor turnout means good prospects for the Congress even though their campaign was minuscule," remarked Jaswant Singh, 57, as he waited to vote in Ahmadabad, the Gujarat state capital, 470 miles (760 km) southwest of New Delhi.

The Election Commission said the policemen were given shoot-at-sight orders in an effort to control vote frauds.

Voting in Himachal Pradesh was impeded by snow in higher reaches of the northern Himalayan state and heavy rains in lower areas.

Polling officials had to walk 30 miles (40 km) to reach India's highest ballot box in the Himalachal Pradesh village of Malana at 12,000 feet (3,660 m) above the sea level, the Press Trust of India said.

Ballot-counting was to begin tomorrow and officials said final results were expected by tomorrow evening.

Tens of thousands of security personnel were deployed for the eight hours of balloting to prevent repetition of violence that claimed more than 150 lives in November general elections.

Security measures were taken in the state of Bihar with about 100,000 homeguards and village volunteers deployed

in support of 58,000 paramilitary personnel, officials said. Security personnel were ordered to shoot on sight anyone trying to intimidate voters or rig polling booths.

Political analysts said the results were certain to add to Rajiv's growing difficulties within his party, where murmurs of a challenge to his leadership are already being heard.

Three important Congress leaders have so far defected to the Janata Dal party of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and scores of aspirants denied Congress tickets were standing as rebel candidates.

The state elections are also the first major test of popularity for Singh's National Front government since it took office after general elections in November.

Rajiv lost that election — only the second national defeat for Congress since India's independence in 1947 — after five years in power.

The Sunday survey said nearly 45 per cent of the people interviewed thought Singh the better prime minister. Only 19 per cent favoured Rajiv.

"Rajiv has done nothing since November to revive Congress grassroots, nothing to change the party structure, which badly needs it. He has done very little about changing his advisers, who have served him very badly," said a Western diplomat.

"If the results are as bad as we expect for Congress, then I have to say he will deserve what's coming to him."

Singh's own prospects could also be influenced by today's votes. Political analysts expect the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which surged from two parliamentary seats to 88 last November, on a tide of religious revival, to win power in at least two of the Hindi-belt states.

Analysts say a victory for the Janata Dal and its allies would help dispel notions that the minority government was unlikely to last long.

Officials in Ahmedabad said at least one dead and more than 16 others injured.



Juan Ponce Enrile. (Reuter wirephoto)

Enrile: thorn in Cory side

Power hungry men

(Continued from Page 1)

accusing me today will also have their day."

Lim rode with Enrile in the senator's bulletproof van to the NBI, where he was fingerprinted. Enrile handed over his own mug shots which he had prepared for the purpose, and thanked Lim for letting him do so.

Also indicted with Enrile were ex-army Col Gregorio Honasan, motelier Rebeco Panlilio and his wife Erlinda, Cagayan province Gov. Rodolfo Aginaldo, senate military consultant Felix Brawner and retired police Maj. Billy Bibit. Of the six, only Honasan's whereabouts were unknown.

As then-defence minister, Enrile co-ordinated the February 1986 revolution that ousted the 20-year ruler Marcos, who died last year in Hawaii. But he quarrelled with Aquino almost immediately and was fired nine months later, after his aides were implicated in a coup bid code-named "God save the queen."

Honasan, 41, Enrile's chief security officer who led an uprising in August 1987, allegedly orchestrated the December rebellion. He remains at large with about 150 mutineers.

State lawyers filed the indictments before Judge Jaime Salazar or the suburban Quezon city criminal court for "rebellion conspired with multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder" in connection with the December rebellion. The charges were brought after two months of pre-trial hearings which Enrile said were properly conducted.

President Aquino was informed of the charges by Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon at a special Cabinet session this morning.

Press Secretary Tomas Gomez said Honasan was included in the rebellion charge. The cashiered colonel is wanted by the military for trying to oust Aquino in coup attempts in August, 1987, and in December last year.

At least 119 people were killed and more than 500 were wounded in the insurrection, the sixth and worst in Aquino's four-year rule.

Enrile also was charged before a Makati court with harbouring a fugitive after witnesses reported they saw Honasan, the alleged mastermind of the December coup attempt, in Enrile's house.

His lawyers posted a \$2,200 bail in the Makati case, but the other charges were not open to bail. Enrile said he would question the charges against him before the Supreme Court, contending the high tribunal struck down the validity of a charge of rebellion linked with murder 40 years ago.

Aquino's estranged Vice-President Salvador Laurel, who visited Enrile after his arrest, said Supreme Court rulings indicate murder is absorbed in the crime of rebellion.

Enrile's case is resolved, Enrile will be detained in Lim's air conditioned and carpeted NBI office.

"No one is above the law," Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos said. "If there are any that are contemplating a violent or illegal action, the armed forces is prepared for any contingency."

Armed forces chief Gen. Renato de Villa met with his top officers for an hour after Enrile's arrest and told them: "We will let the law take its course... we are just watching. That's a right among lawyers."

The military said nearly 2,000 officers and soldiers involved in the coup had either surrendered or had been captured. Of the number, 21 are undergoing pre-trial hearings before military tribunals.

Aside from those indicted today, more than 40 other civilians are undergoing preliminary investigation before the Justice Department.

The opposition Nacionalista Party accused the Aquino administration of fabricating the charges against Enrile, saying they were designed to intimidate the opposition and stifle dissent.

But supporters of Aquino in Congress who have been looking for decisive action by the government in the face of continued coup threats welcomed the action.

In his speech to the senate, Enrile said Aquino's government had "marshalled all its forces in fabricating charges against me in order to silence the voice of the opposition in this chamber."

He said his arrest paved the way for renewed tyranny in the Philippines.

"Tyranny is not far behind us. Democracy is imperilled..." said Enrile.

The wealthy 66-year-old was widely feared as a leading enforcer of martial law which Marcos ruled under from 1972 to 1981.

Government prosecutors charged Enrile with rebellion, murder and harbouring a criminal in two separate cases. The maximum penalty is life imprisonment.

Judge Jaime Salazar ordered his immediate arrest, saying the charges did not qualify for bail.

MANILA, Feb 27, (Reuter) — Juan Ponce Enrile, the former Philippine defence minister charged with rebellion and murder today, has been a constant thorn in the side of President Corazon Aquino since he helped put her in power four years ago.

A man of considerable wealth and with powerful links to the military, he has been a maverick within Aquino's newly restored democracy and widely seen as a man with a hunger for power.

Enrile, 66, apologised to the nation in a radio interview last Friday for helping install Aquino, saying she was not fit for the job.

His remarks closely reflected the position of disident military forces led by Enrile's former security chief, cashiered Colonel Gregorio Honasan, who says the Aquino government is corrupt and incompetent and must be removed.

Enrile and Honasan led a small band of army rebels who launched a military revolt, backed by hundreds of thousands of civilians, that overthrew then President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

Widely feared during the Marcos era for his role as martial law administrator and Marcos's defence minister for 17 years, Enrile became a national hero overnight for revolting against his long-time boss.

"I would just like to be remembered as a footnote to history," he said later. Aquino named Enrile her defence chief after she became president in February 1986 but their relationship — which she once described as "an unholy alliance" — was rocky from the start.

Enrile repeatedly criticised Aquino's policy of reconciliation with communist rebels and accused her of weak leadership.

She finally fired him from the cabinet in November 1986 after army officers loyal to Enrile were linked to coup plots. Then she sent him a medal.

"My dreams for our country have always been high and lofty. I shall continue to pursue them even outside of government. They are beyond compromise," Enrile said in a fiery speech.

The day he broke with Marcos in 1986, Enrile made a public confession that he had staged a mock attempt on his own life to give Marcos an excuse to declare martial law in 1972.

During the martial law years, thousands of Marcos's political opponents were arrested, among them Aquino's husband, then opposition leader Benigno Aquino, who was later assassinated in August 1983.

Enrile was born an illegitimate child on February 14, 1924 in the mountainous Cagayan province in the northern Philippines, a major base of communist guerrillas fighting a 20-year insurgency.

The hawk-faced Enrile was born in abject poverty, but became one of the nation's wealthiest businessmen. He was the illegitimate son of a prominent lawyer, who acknowledged him as his son after Enrile was nearly an adult.

Later, his father financed an education at the University of the Philippines and later Harvard University, after which Enrile returned to the Philippines and began a prosperous legal practice.

After serving in various government posts, he became defence minister in February 1970.

He was a successful corporate lawyer before joining the government and is well known in banking and financial circles.

He first expressed presidential ambitions after the murder of Aquino's husband, when it was reported that Marcos would not stand for election again. Elected to the senate in 1987, Enrile has forged an alliance with Aquino's estranged vice-president, Salvador Laurel. Enrile holds the post of secretary-general of the Nacionalista Party, the country's main opposition group and Laurel is party president.



Shatrughan Sinha

Hindi film star Shatrughan Sinha and his wife Poonam Look for their names in a list of registered voters at a polling station in Bombay. Sinha campaigned vigorously for the opposition party's candidates in the legislative assembly elections for the Indian state of Maharashtra. More than 200 million Indians went to vote in eight state assembly elections held yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

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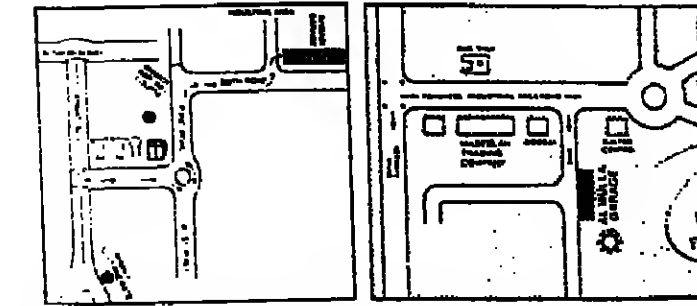
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Half and Half: Spycatcher case

Contempt but no fines

LONDON, Feb 27, (AP) — The court of appeal today upheld contempt convictions against two newspapers but overturned £50,000 (\$85,000) fines against them for publishing material from a former intelligence agent's memoirs.

The Independent and the Sunday Times were fined for contempt by the High Court in May 1989 for publishing extracts from "Spycatcher," by retired intelligence agent Peter Wright, while a ban was in force against two other newspapers.

The three-judge Court of Appeal said both papers were in contempt, even though they were not mentioned in the ban, because they knew that publication of the extracts could prejudice a court case against the book.

The British government fought a 2 1/2-year court battle to suppress "Spycatcher," arguing that Wright had violated a lifetime vow of secrecy in disclosing details of his years as an intelligence agent. The government lost the case and the book is now legally available here.

The court of appeal granted the Sunday Times and the Independent the right to appeal to the House of Lords, Britain's highest court. Both papers said they would appeal.

The contempt proceedings began in 1987 when the government alleged the newspapers' conduct in publishing material from "Spycatcher" was intended or was likely to thwart the publication ban obtained by the government in July 1986 against the Guardian and the Observer.

Lord Justice Fox said the publication by the Independent in April 1987 was in contempt of court, but was committed in ignorance of the judge's later written ruling justifying the ban.

The Independent story had no effect on the final outcome of the proceedings by the attorney general against the Observer and the Guardian, the paper had apologised, and in the circumstances Fox said he did not think it would be just to impose a penalty on the paper.

The circumstances in the case of the Sunday Times, which had also offered a full apology, were "exceptional" given the state of the law, the legal advice the paper had been given, and the imminent publication of "Spycatcher" in the United States, Fox said. They did not justify a fine, he said.



Caught in tug-of-love

Seven-year-old Hilary Foretich looks out of the window of her grandparents' car as they head off for school on Feb 27. Hilary is the centre of a bitter US custody battle and has been in hiding while living in Christchurch, New Zealand from her father Eric for the past two years. (Reuter wirephoto)

Is mommy right or daddy: Hilary's dilemma

Innocent victim of custody war

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (UPI): The question of whether Hilary Foretich was sexually abused by her father is best left to the courts but the 7-year-old already is the main casualty in the war for her custody.

Some experts believe Hilary will show emotional damage in later years because of the bitterness her parents have displayed toward each other publicly. They say she already had suffered separation from her mother because of the shortcomings of the judicial system.

The interests of the child often are the last to be considered, said David Liederman, executive director of the Washington-based Child Welfare League of America. "Too often it's a case of 'is mommy right or is daddy right?'"

For the past 2 1/2 years the child at the heart of America's most notorious custody war has been on a 15,000-mile Odyssey, in hiding for 31 months with her elderly grandparents.

They travelled from Washington to the Bahamas, Canada, Scotland, England and New Zealand, where Hilary finally has been located by her father.

"It's not healthy for a child to be on the run — from motel to motel, from country to country," Liederman said. "We know kids need a stable environment. Those who don't have that end up in bad shape."

Dr Elizabeth Morgan sent Hilary into hiding and spent 25 months in jail rather than disclose her whereabouts.

She insisted she was protecting Hilary from Dr Eric Foretich, her divorced husband, who Morgan claims regularly abused their child sexually.

Foretich, 47, an oral surgeon, bitterly denies the allegation, contending that Morgan, 42, a plastic surgeon, is mentally ill.

"I don't know what purpose was served in jailing Dr Morgan," Liederman said. "I was glad to see that come to an end."

As Foretich flew toward New Zealand during the weekend to "rescue" Hilary, the child's 79-year-old maternal grandfather, William Morgan, escalated the rhetorical war by branding his former son-in-law a "psychopathic pedophile pervert."

Foretich claimed the grandparents, both psychologists, told his daughter her parents had been killed in a car crash, an allegation Elizabeth Morgan denied, contending, "If Eric were dead, Hilary would not be in hiding."

Dr Morgan, who hopes to fly to New Zealand to see her daughter, said Hilary "is naturally very unhappy her father has been hunting her down like an animal."

Foretich, for his part, said, "I am tired of being portrayed as a latter-day Jack the Ripper."

Liederman said he was pleased to learn that the New Zealand court already has demonstrated concern for Hilary's best interest by assigning her legal counsel.

Foretich criticises media

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 27, (Reuter): American surgeon Eric Foretich today attacked media coverage of his battle for custody of his seven-year-old daughter, Hilary, accusing reporters in New Zealand of blatantly disregarding her welfare.

Passers-by hurried about the girl's school and a former family court judge called on reporters to back off as sympathy grew among ordinary New Zealanders for her plight.

"The media reporting and comment on the Foretich custody dispute has been disgraceful," Foretich lawyer Rod Hansen said in a statement issued in Auckland.

"Dr Foretich is disgusted by the way in which certain of the parties and the media have acted in blatant disregard of the interest of the daughter," the lawyer said.

For the past three years Foretich and his ex-wife, Elizabeth Morgan, have fought over Hilary not only through the courts, but also in a series of television interviews watched by millions of Americans.

Morgan was jailed for 25 months in the United States starting in August, 1987, for refusing to tell US courts where she had hidden her daughter so that her former husband could not exercise his visitation rights. Special legislation freed Morgan from prison last year.

The custody dispute moved to New Zealand last week when Foretich discovered Hilary had been in hiding with her maternal grandparents in the south island city of Christchurch.

Foretich on television and in newspapers of Hilary, who has attended a Christchurch primary school for more than 18 months, have aroused public sympathy and resentment of the media.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

LAS VEGAS: Correll Gunter, lead singer of the Coasters, the comic do-wop group that had hits in the late 1950s with "Yakety Yak" and "Charlie Brown," was shot to death while driving, police said Tuesday.

Gunter, shot twice in the chest at an intersection midway Monday, was found slumped over the steering wheel, police said.

"It appears he was shot through the windshield and he was dead on the scene. We don't have a motive at this time," said Lt Gary Ransley.

Gunter and the Coasters had been scheduled to perform at the Lady Luck Hotel this weekend, said Janice Mazzocchi, a spokeswoman at the hotel.

A tutor, Gunter joined the Coasters in 1957, two years after the group was formed in Los Angeles.

With a flurry of hits that included "Yakety Yak" in 1957 and "Charlie Brown," "Along Came Jones" and "Peggy Sue" in 1959, the Coasters were the nation's most popular black rock 'n' roll group at the end of the decade.

Other hits included "Framed," "I'd Like to Be a Doctor" and "Shoppin' For Clothes."

Their last chart appearance was in 1971 with "Love Potion No. 9." (AP)

PHILADELPHIA: It took three guys using a diamond-edged power saw and a jackhammer to knock Rocky Balboa off his feet Monday.

The crew worked for more than two hours to separate the 8 1/2-foot (2.6-metre) bronze likeness of the city's fictitious boxer from the steps of the Philadelphia museum of art, which has repeatedly insisted it doesn't want the statue.

A lawyer for "Rocky" creator Sylvester Stallone pledged to fight to get the statue, a movie prop, a permanent home atop the museum steps.

In the original "Rocky," which won best picture and best director

Academy Awards in 1976, Stallone's Balboa character ran up the museum's stone steps in triumph while training for a fight.

The statue had been moved to the museum from the spectrum sports arena for the filming of Stallone's latest "Rocky" movie, "Rocky V." Filming of "Rocky V" ended here Friday, and the museum insisted the movie producers move Stallone's likeness.

After separating the 800-pound (363-kilo) statue from the base, workers used a crane to lift it onto a truck.

Fans protested the move. Even Mayor W. Wilson Goode supported leaving the statue at the museum. (AP)

NEWPORT BEACH, California: It is not every day that a bank tosses \$42,500 into the trash — even in this trendy community.

"We're sort of embarrassed," Great American Bank spokesman Brian Lusscomb said Friday, a day after the windfall was recovered from a municipal trash truck that had hauled it away.

It was an accident and we're really not commenting much beyond that," said Lusscomb, who added that a bank employee whose name was not released put the money in the wrong container.

When the garbage truck got to the dump, officials there had been warned about the missing cash, and they had the driver take his load to a city yard instead. The garbage was dumped there and municipal employees dug through the trash until they found the cash.

The city's trash collectors must try to track down the owners of expensive items but can keep lesser ones, said general services director David Niederhant. (AP)

RUTLAND, Vermont: Former Olympic skier Sary Chaffee has been touring the United States

speaking out against animal-rights activists who would ban the sale of fur coats.

For the past three years, Chaffee, 43, has helped design and promote a collection of fur-lined skiwear called Sary Chaffee Sport Furs.

She spoke in Aspen and Colorado. (AP)

OAKLAND, California: Former Black Panther Stokely Carmichael, now using the name Kwame Ture, is updating his 1960s call to political action, recruiting students for his All African People's Revolutionary Party.

"If you don't join our party, then

join some other party... If you can't find an organisation you like, then make your own party," he said in a speech at Laney college.

"You must help your people," Ture, 48, said Friday. "If you don't, by your very inactivity, you are against your people."

As Stokely Carmichael, he headed the student non-violent coordinating committee during the civil rights struggles of the '60s. He later joined the Black Panther Party.

In 1979 he named himself after African revolutionary leaders Kwame Nkrumah and Sekou Toure.

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NEWS BRIEF

Wednesday morning launch: Officials set their sights on a sixth attempt early Wednesday to launch space shuttle Atlantis on a secret military mission, but the weather forecast still looked dim.

Air force forecasters said there was only a 40 per cent chance the weather would allow a 12.45 am (0545 GMT). High winds and clouds are expected to move into the launch area, and the outlook for Thursday is about the same.

The five delays in as many days have so far cost the National Aeronautics and Space Administration \$2.75 million in fuel, labour and materials. (AP)

Flag burning law upheld: A US appeals court on Monday upheld the conviction of a demonstrator who burned an American flag, but the justice did not rule on the constitutionality of a new federal law outlawing flag burning in St. Louis.

A federal judge in Seattle has ruled the law unconstitutional and the Justice Department said Friday it would appeal directly to the supreme court.

The demonstrator Monday's case, William Charles Jr., was sentenced to three months in prison and fined \$25 for his role in the flag burning during a March 18, 1988, protest in Minneapolis against US involvement in Honduras. (AP)

Aids a threat to military: The deadly Aids virus has had a minimal effect on the US military but could stretch the limits of the armed service's health care system in the next decade, a congressional report said Monday in Washington.

The General Accounting Office found after an 18-month investigation that the Defence Department has done a commendable job in screening its personnel for human immunodeficiency virus or HIV, the infection researchers believe causes Aids, which remains incurable.

As of August 1989, the Defence Department had tested about 2.1 million of its almost 2.3 million active duty members for HIV, said the agency, Congress' investigative arm. (AP)

Hazelwood finale: Exxon Valdez Capt. Joseph Hazelwood tried to move the grounded tanker off a jagged reef, endangering the engine room crew and risking the loss of the ship, a prosecution witness testified Monday in Anchorage, Alaska.

George Greiner Jr., who analysed shipboard recordings of course changes during the ship's disastrous passage into Prince William Sound, said it was obvious Hazelwood attempted to move the tanker after it ran onto Bligh Reef early March 24.

On that day, the supertanker Exxon Valdez had hit a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound and spilled almost 11 million gallons (42 million litres) of oil, the largest spill in US history. The resulting slick blackened hundreds of miles (kilometres) of coastline, threatened wildlife, the state's fishing industry and spurred a national debate on environmental protection. (AP)

Gay soldier ban intact: The Supreme Court Monday left intact the US military's general ban on homosexuals serving in the army and navy.

The court, without comment, rejected appeals by a woman denied re-enlistment in the army reserve in Wisconsin because she is a lesbian and a California man released from navy active duty because he is gay.

The action was not a ruling on the legality of the military ban but simply a summary rejection of the appeals. The justices did not preclude the possibility that in some future case they will agree to review the policy toward homosexuals. (AP)

Farewell to Forbes: A bagpiper played "Scotland the Brave" at a private funeral Monday for Malcolm Forbes, the multi-millionaire publisher known for selling the joys of capitalism.

The service for Forbes, who has been mourned by business leaders and socialites world-wide, was attended only by immediate family at the Church of St. John on the mountain in this rustic borough 50 miles west of New York, where the magazine Forbes Inc. is headquartered. (AP)

Sulzberger dead at 97: New York Times publisher Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, whose spunk and adventurous spirit charmed royalty and enamoured presidents, died in his sleep early Monday. She was 97.

Nancy Finn, assistant to Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, Mrs Sulzberger's son and publisher of the Times, said Mrs Sulzberger died of natural causes at her home in Stamford, Connecticut.

Mrs Sulzberger attained power and prominence as a trustee of the family fortune and as the daughter, wife, mother-in-law and mother of Times publishers, whose newspaper has earned a reputation as one of the best and most authoritative in the world. (AP)



Plumes flutter

The plumes on the helmets of the Queen's Household Cavalry are blown in the strong winds during the changing of the guards Feb 26. Gale force winds reaching speeds of 103mph battered the British Isles killing at least 9 people. (Reuters wirephoto)



Best supporting actor

Alan Alda (top) giggles for reporters after being voted Best Supporting Actor for movie role in Crimes and Misdemeanors at the D.W. Griffith Awards in New York on Feb 26. Bottom: Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronin pose together at the awards ceremony. Tandy was runner-up for the Best Actress for her role in "Driving Miss Daisy" and has been nominated for an Oscar for the same role. (Reuters wirephoto)

Drug survey

It's immoral

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (AP) Fewer than 2 per cent of Americans questioned in a new survey say they might try cocaine if it were legal, but 60 per cent say they think someone else would.

Three-fifths of those questioned in the poll released today by the Drug Policy Foundation said all drug use is immoral and should be illegal, while 35 per cent disagreed.

And 55 per cent said they believe the Bush administration's war on drugs is likely to reduce the drug problem, while 36 per cent favoured legalisation of less serious drugs along with an increase in drug treatment and education.

When given the choice between providing treatment and counselling for drug users or punishing drug users with fines and/or imprisonment, 68 per cent favoured treatment and 21 per cent favoured punishment.

"In rejecting the war on drugs users and in choosing not to use drugs even if drugs were legal, Americans are saying, 'make health, not war,'" said all drug use is immoral and should be illegal, while 35 per cent disagreed.

"Americans want to help their neighbours who abuse drugs; they do not want to imprison them," Trebach said.

Latin America

One day without a car extended: Mayor Manuel Camacho Solis said Monday he was extending Mexico City's successful "one day without a car" programme for two months and toughening measures to combat one of the world's worst cases of smog.

"We are determined, and we have the overwhelming support of an equally determined citizenry, to go ahead and make next winter even less contaminated than this winter was," the mayor said at a news conference.

The experimental programme, which forced people not to drive one day a week, started Nov 20 and was scheduled to end Wednesday. The period conversions to the winter season's thermal inversions, when cold air traps toxic gases in the city. (AP)

Colombian mayor, shot dead: A leftist Colombian mayor was shot dead after being abducted on Monday from her parents' home in Medellin by men who said they were secret police agents assigned to guard her, police said in Bogota.

Diana Cardona Saldarriaga, Mayor of Apartado, was taken away by men who said they were assigned as bodyguards to escort her to the airport for a return trip to Apartado, a city in the banana-growing area bordering Panama, police said.

Shortly afterwards, five genuine secret police agents who actually were assigned as her bodyguards turned up at her parents' home and learned of the kidnapping. (Reuters)

Rebels killed in battle: Colombian troops surprised a group of leftist guerrillas and killed four of them as they prepared to dynamite the country's main oil pipeline, the army said Monday.

The army also said it captured one rebel belonging to the National Liberation Army, known by the Spanish initials ELN, in the fighting Sunday near Toledo, about 250 miles (400 kilometres) northeast of Bogota. (AP)

Heart valve tied to deaths

US to probe if makers withheld failings from public

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (Reuters) The acting head of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said yesterday his agency would investigate whether the maker of an artificial heart valve blamed for hundreds of deaths had concealed its failings from the government.

"If the company knew that information and withheld it, then I have a grave problem with that. Whether or not it was misconduct I simply don't know," acting Chief James Benson told the house energy and commerce committee's investigations subcommittee.

The subcommittee, chaired by Congressman John Dingell, a Michigan Democrat, has been probing for the past year the Shiley heart valve made by New York-based Pfizer Inc's Shiley Inc Unit.

While the valve made by Pfizer helped thousands of heart patients to regain their health, "the bad news is that it has a record of failures... and has caused the death of over 250 people," Dingell said.

An investigation by the subcommittee's democratic staff members concluded that

Shiley had failed to maintain acceptable manufacturing and safety standards and blamed the FDA for taking too long to force the valve off the market.

The valve was first approved by the FDA in April 1979.

Shiley says two different models of the valve were implanted in about 86,000 patients in the United States and abroad before it was pulled off the market in November 1986.

Shiley says it knows of 394 valve failures and

adds that the device has been implicated in 252 deaths.

The first witness to testify before the subcommittee, Frederick Barbee of Minnong, Wisconsin, broke into tears as he recounted the death of his wife Carol, then 50, from a Shiley heart valve failure in April 1988.

"I understand that the valve had a failure rate that was known by the manufacturer, however the company made no attempt to inform any patients of the time bomb that had been implanted in their hearts," Barbee testified.

Jackson third time around

In for presidency: out from mayoral race

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (AP) Jesse L. Jackson announced yesterday he will not run for mayor of the "dispirited" nation's capital but he refused to rule out a third bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1992.

"I want to continue to serve, but not as mayor," said Jackson, the black US civil rights activist, citizen diplomat and two-time presidential contender. "At present I believe that I may best serve by continuing work at a national level to change the direction of this country."

"You have to almost predict a run of '88," said John White, a former National Party chairman who advised Jackson in the late stages of his 1988 presidential bid.

Jackson's political plans have been the subject of much conjecture since he moved to the district of Columbia last April. Speculation about a Jackson mayoral candidacy increased after Mayor Marion Barry's arrest last month on a cocaine possession charge and subsequent enrollment in a substance abuse treatment programme.

Jackson said he would continue to support the district's efforts to become a state, but he also said his rainbow coalition would press for action on issues at the national level, including changes in federal tax law, increased voter registration and expanding the federal government's housing programmes.

Jackson did not rule out another bid for the White House in 1992.

"It's premature," said the civil rights leader. "We won't rule it in, but it's not the season for it."

A top Jackson aide, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, suggested Jackson's current plans could provide a springboard for another presidential effort.

"It's too early to tell," the aide said. "But if we pull statehood, these other things together, it gives us a lot of ways to jump, and another national campaign is certainly one."

In recent weeks, Jackson has stressed repeatedly that championing the city's quest to become the nation's 51st state would remain his priority through the election year.

Race a factor in death penalty

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (UPI) People who murder, whites are more likely to get the death penalty than those who kill blacks but it is not as "clear cut" whether the race of the killer is as influential in executions, a study showed yesterday.

The General Accounting Office, in a report prepared for Congress, said the study "shows a pattern of evidence indicating racial disparities in the charging, sentencing and imposition of the death penalty."

The findings by the congressional watchdog group were based on the research of 28 other studies done since states rewrote their laws after the 1972 Supreme Court decision that ruled unconstitutional a death penalty imposed in an arbitrary or capricious manner.

"In 82 per cent of the studies, race of victim was found to influence the likelihood of being charged with capital murder or receiving the death penalty — those who murdered whites were found to be more likely to be sentenced to death than those who murdered blacks," the report said.

The GAO said the race of the victim was influential at all stages of the judicial process, but more pronounced in the early stages of the judicial process, such as charging a capital offence or to go to trial rather than plea bargain.

"However, decisions made at every stage of the process necessarily affect an individual's likelihood of being sentenced to death," the report said.

Variables

The GAO said that even after taking into consideration legal variables — such as prior criminal record, heinousness of crime and number of victims — and other factors such as region, "differences remain in the likelihood of receiving the death penalty based on race of victim."

But the GAO also said that the influence of the race of the killer on the death penalty was "equivocal" and said the "relationship between race of defendant and outcome varies across studies."

The GAO said three-fourths of the studies showed that blacks were more likely to get the death penalty and the rest said the opposite.

In another developments it was found that nearly one of every four black males in the United States aged 20 to 29 is behind bars or on probation or parole.

Horses hitman held in Miami

MIAMI, Feb 27, (AP) A dentist has been arrested and accused of hiring himself out to kill thoroughbred race horses so owners could collect insurance money, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported yesterday.

Dr Joseph James Brown of Shelbyville, Kentucky, was arrested Feb 17 on a charge of wire fraud at Calder race course north of Miami in following an investigation by the FBI and the New York-based thoroughbred racing protective board.

"Brown was arrested... by FBI agents as he was about to administer a lethal injection to a thoroughbred race horse," said FBI spokesman Paul Miller.



A young member of the Rio de Janeiro Samba school plays the tamborine during the second day of the parade. (Reuters wirephoto)

Samba beat quiet

2 killed as carnival float crashes

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 27, (Agencies) Rio ended its annual carnival today on a high note despite an increase in the number of murders during the glittering extravaganza.

The sprawling city, burdened by Aids, hyperinflation and violent crime, forgot its problems in a crescendo of bands and dazzling displays.

But local newspapers reported 84 murders in Greater Rio between Saturday and Monday afternoon — up from the 57 last year during the full five days of carnival.

Two young men died when a float they were pushing hit an overhead cable.

The two-day parade wound up early today as the last eight samba schools made their way down the "Sambadrome" on elaborate floats, decked in flamboyant costumes.

A ban by the League of Samba Schools on total nudity this year was not exactly defied, but hundreds of scantily-clad women swayed and spun to the hypnotic beat of the samba drums along the route.

Most of the 90,000 spectators remained on their feet throughout the 12-hour marathon.

Floofs of Indians standing 13 metres (yards) high, bikini-clad girls emerging from giant bananas and skulls caught in a huge spider web were some of the most striking images of the parade.

The spectacular display contrasted starkly with the often harsh reality of life in Rio.

But inside the Sambadrome, spectators and participants alike thought only of having a good time. "When I samba I forget everything, I forget my problems, I forget Brazil's problems," said Mauricio Dias, a member of the Santa Cruz Samba School.

Results of the samba competition are not expected until tomorrow, but Imperatriz Leopoldinense, the school which won last year, emerged as a strong candidate for this year's golden trophy.

Its patriotic depiction of Brazil's cultural heritage enthralled the audience as giant Indians, a towering silver peacock and dancing girls floated by.

"It's fantastic," said Coleman Wood, a tourist from Alabama. "Here the people come to give their spirit and participate. Everyone is dancing."

This year the parades, the high point of annual celebrations, entered the high tech era, with computers running elaborate floats with complex lighting and sound systems that made displays more lavish than ever before, according to commentators.

The first of three huge samba school parades, got off to a shaky start when the waterfall float of the Beija Flor Samba School crashed into a high tension wire early Monday morning.

The float caught fire and was destroyed after it hit the tension wire near the post office, just as it was to enter the Sambadrome stadium where 80,000 spectators were watching the parade.

Police said two men pushing the float died and a third was injured with burns in the accident.

A float with a giant representation of Superman sitting on a toilet with his pants down covered the image's genitals with a cape, as requested by league.

Uruguay police officer opts to take up arms to make amends with editor

MONTEVIDEO, Feb 27, (UPI) A senior official yesterday formally challenged a newspaper publisher to a duel, seeking to redeem honour he said was tarnished in a story accusing him of possible corruption.

Uruguay's chief police inspector, Saul Claveria, sent his seconds to Federico Fasano, editor of the tabloid La Republica, to formally follow through on a recent threat to challenge the newspaperman to a duel.

Though legal, duelling is rare in Uruguay, which permits the practice in a law dating to 1920.

The newspaper, under the direction of Fasano, claimed in a Jan 24 story that Claveria was the registered owner of two cars seized by Montevideo police on the suspicion of

having been used to import goods illegally.

The police inspector denied responsibility for the case and called for an honour court to be formed to judge his conduct.

An honour court is made up of three or four people designated by executive, congressional and judicial officials to decide whether the petitioner has a legitimate offence and the right to make the challenge.

The court decided Claveria was innocent and the government, through the Uruguayan Interior Ministry, authorised the challenge of Fasano to a duel.

"This idea of a duel is something out of the middle ages... it's creating a terrible image of Uruguay," Fasano told

Radio Rivadavia in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in an interview.

"Yesterday, the New York Times and the Miami Herald called me. Neither of them could believe it," Fasano said.

The court held Fasano responsible for information published in his newspaper despite his absence from the country the day the report was published.

"I am going to listen to what the seconds (of Claveria) have to say, and then I will decide what I am going to do," Fasano said.

The editor had offered space in his paper to Claveria so that he could exercise "his right to respond" but the police

official rejected the offer, opting to take up arms to "make amends."

Claveria designated the general inspector of the police, Ubaldino Genta, and Col Alfredo Rubio to represent him as seconds against Fasano.

Fasano named journalist Danilo Arbillas, a vice-president of the Inter-American Press Society, and Leonardo Guzman, editor of the newspaper La Es, as his personal representatives.

Fasano said he felt the time of duelling had passed but said he could "not ruling anything out."

"To fight a duel in the current days would be an anachronism," he said.

Research breakthrough

Deaf-blind gene link

OMAHA, Neb., Feb 27, (Reuters) Researchers said yesterday they had isolated a gene linked to a birth defect which causes deafness and blindness, a discovery they called a breakthrough in the search to prevent and treat the disorder.

The condition involved, known as Usher Syndrome, afflicts more than half of the people in the United States who are both deaf and blind, researchers at Boys Town National Research Hospital said.

"This is a significant breakthrough in our understanding of one type of inner-ear deafness which is accompanied by blindness," said Patrick Brookhouse, director of the hospital.

Marriage via video

New Lanka craze

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka, Feb 27, (Reuters): The parents of Ranjini, a 22-year-old teacher, wanted her to get married so they sent a video of their daughter to relatives in Canada who had an unmarried son.

The young woman was accepted and two months later the two were married in South India according to Hindu rites.

Video marriage introductions are becoming popular in Jaffna, 320 km (200 miles) north of Colombo and the heartland of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

Prospective bridegrooms are a rare commodity in the city, as most young men join Tamil guerrilla groups or go abroad.

According to unofficial estimates, 200,000 of the Jaffna peninsula's 800,000 residents have found jobs or refuge abroad in the past 10 years.

The Middle East is the preferred place for professional jobs and Canada, West Germany and Britain for political asylum.

"With most of them being young men, young women are finding it hard to get suitable partners," said a local journalist.

He said the video marriage, as it is popularly known here, is becoming a flourishing business for marriage brokers.

Since both sides are wealthy, the broker calls the shots if he makes a good match," the journalist said.

Most marriages in Jaffna are arranged. Rarely do young people find their own partners — in Jaffna's traditionally caste-entrenched and conservative society, this would be almost unthinkable.

"We have traditional values that surround our culture. One is that the parents select partners for their children," a retired government official explained.

The dowry system, by which a professional such as a doctor, engineer or lawyer can fetch as much as one million rupees (\$25,000) for the groom's family in addition to property and jewellery, rules out marrying for love.

Elders used to frown on "love affairs," because they meant the bride-to-be's parents could not be held to a promise to provide dowry.

But changes are creeping in.

Western values and patterns of behaviour are making inroads into Jaffna culture since so many of the region's population now live abroad.

"It is this alien culture that we are getting used to," the journalist said.

He said foreign money from Tamils working abroad was not only boosting the economy, once dependent on agriculture, but also bringing in new ideas.

Shops are filled with foreign goods and people have money to spend. Cinema are full of young couples holding hands, kissing and whispering sweet nothings in the back row during matinee shows.

Few small hotels offer rooms for sex.

"Sex, once an unmentionable word in our society, is becoming accepted more and more here," the journalist added.

Sex video movies are available. "They are not marketed on the streets or in video shops but they could be obtained through the right connections," he said.

Older residents are stunned by the changes.

"What can we do? Our children are exposed to Western behaviour and patterns. They have become independent by living abroad," said one resident.

Bangladesh raids drug fields

DHAKA, Feb 27, (UPI): Police raided drug plantations in three remote villages along the border of Bangladesh and Burma, arresting seven people and seizing about a tonne of marijuana, police said.

Narcotics control director Shahidullah Khan, who led the police raid today, said it was based on information that the marijuana was being cultivated in three villages of Pagar Beel, Patabari and Haludia in Cox's Bazar in southern Bangladesh.

Seven people were apprehended in the surprise police raid, although Khan said he believed the operation involved a much larger international organisation.

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Indian constitution burnt

70,000 militants rally in Srinagar: bombings reported

SRINAGAR, Feb 27, (UPI): About 70,000 Muslims demanding independence for Kashmir marched today through Srinagar and burned copies of the Indian constitution, while militant-set bombs damaged banks, houses and vehicles but caused no injuries, police said.

In New Delhi, a Foreign Ministry spokesman indicated that India would prohibit a fact-finding visit to Kashmir reportedly planned by a UN official.

The spokesman said the central government was in "broad agreement" with a statement yesterday by a Jammu and Kashmir state official that "no UN official has a legal or moral right to interfere in the internal affairs of the state."

Muslim separatist today shot and killed two Hindus after accusing them of being police informers as eight bombs exploded in Srinagar, the focus of the militant's campaign for Kashmir's independence.

Militants called up offices of Indian news agencies by phone and claimed responsibility for the deaths of Tej Kishan, an intelligence officer and Naveen Sapru, a state government employee.

"We eliminated them as they were working as police informers," two unidentified callers told the news agencies.

In Srinagar at least eight bombs exploded today, police said.

During one demonstration, about 10,000 students built a bonfire and burned copies of the Indian constitution.

Five bombs exploded in the militant stronghold of Anantnag, 30 miles (50 km) south of Srinagar, damaging a bank, a government jeep and three houses, police said. No injuries were reported.

In Srinagar, 400 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi, two explosions damaged a bank and destroyed a government truck.

Also during the day today, security forces fired into the air to disperse about 50 Muslim youths who had broken into several liquor stores in attempts to destroy liquor stocks, police said.

All liquor stores, cinemas, videotape rental outlets and beauty parlours have been closed for weeks in Kashmir because of threats by underground Muslim separatist groups engineering the pro-independence drive.

Some 600 Srinagar lawyers announced that they would comply with militant demands that they observe the Islamic prayer day of Friday, instead of Sunday, as their weekly day off.

But in a show of defiance of the militants, the Jammu and Kashmir state government last night warned employees not to take part in political activities. In an announcement over state-run radio and television, the government said disciplinary action would be taken against offenders.

The warning came after 1,000 employees of the state-run bus company staged a demonstration yesterday.

Tens of thousands of paramilitary and security force personnel have been deployed throughout the troubled Kashmir valley, the region's main population centre, to quell the separatist movement that is supported by virtually all three million Muslim residents.

More than 100 people have died since a two-year-old independence movement turned into a popular insurrection against New Delhi rule.

A high-level Pakistani envoy urged the UN and its secretary-general yesterday to prevent more violence in the Indian state of Kashmir and to sponsor a plebiscite there.

Iqbal Akhund, security adviser to Pakistan's prime minister, said he told Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that Pakistan has not instigated anti-India and separatist violence in Kashmir, as Indian officials have suggested.

India gets updated MIG technology

NEW DELHI, Feb 27, (UPI): New Delhi and Moscow yesterday concluded talks on plans to upgrade the technology of MiG-21 and MiG-27 series of fighter planes that are built in India, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

Both the fighter aircraft are assembled in India under licence from the Soviet Union and Monday's talk was aimed at upgrading the efficiency of the planes, the Press Trust said.

It said the Soviet Union agreed to give India the updated production technology and an agreement was to have been signed yesterday, but both agreed to wait for a decision on the joint production of the sophisticated MiG-29 series of planes in India.

India was the first country to get the MiG-29 fighters from Moscow, aimed to counter US-made F-16s possessed by Pakistan.

The communist superpower made an offer to New Delhi for joint production of the plane in India, which has so far not accepted the offer as it has an ambitious plan to produce light combat aircraft which is still to be designed.

Profs protest Nepal raids

KATMANDU, Feb 27, (UPI): Hundreds of academicians wearing black armbands began striking today, denouncing police raids on campuses and demanding the release of colleagues arrested during the 10-day-old pro-democracy movement.

"Suppression is widespread. The government wants to gag intellectuals with independent views," B.C. Malla, a former head of the political science department of Tribhuvan University, told a public meeting of about 1,000 fellow university, told a public meeting of about 1,000 fellow university professors.

"The government tells teachers not to get involved in politics, but it sends pro-government academicians to address establishment-organised political rallies in favour of the government. This is a contradiction," professor Mangal Siddhi Manna-dhar told the meeting.

The Nepal University Teachers Association said it called the strike to condemn the killing of at least 12 demonstrators by police who opened fire on rallies staged throughout the country since the pro-democracy protests began Feb 18.

The union said its strike also was called to demand the release of 27 professors and lecturers detained during the movement and to protest the dismissal of three lecturers at the Tribhuvan University campus in Pokhara in western Nepal who allegedly were involved in party politics.

The union did not say how long it would continue the strike, which affected 32 campuses in the Nepalese capital.

The Pokhara campus was the scene of violent clashes between students and police last week in which 68 students were reported seriously injured.

The nation-wide protests, organised by the leading opposition groups, the banned Nepali Congress Party, are seeking to legalise political parties, which have been banned for 29 years under Nepal's partyless "panchayat" system of elective village councils.

The partyless system is dominated by King Birendra, who appoints the prime minister.

Authorities said 12 demonstrators have been killed in confrontations with police attempting to break up the protests, but opposition sources place the death toll at 29, with scores injured.

Lecturers and professors assembled at the Tri Chandra campus in Katmandu early today wearing black armbands and carrying placards that read "down with the panchayat system" and "stop killings."

In a move against the opposition press, authorities today seized copies of the weekly newspaper "Martibhumi", street vendors and newspaper officials said.

Journalists said that since Jan 28, a total of 13 newspapers have been seized or censored. The government has denied imposing censorship.

A split over the handling of the protests has emerged in the 31-member government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Shrestha, with one minister yesterday publicly blaming the administration for the violence and leading calls for negotiation.

The prime minister has continued to defend the panchayat system and has ruled out any negotiation with the opposition.

"Suppression cannot be an answer to the political problem Nepal is facing today," Keshab Budhathoki, assistant minister for water resources, said in an interview.

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Muslim demonstrators burn an effigy of V.P. Singh in Srinagar. (Reuters wirephoto)

Indian prostitutes spreading Aids at an alarming rate

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (Kuna): Indian prostitutes are spreading Aids at an alarming rate, with the numbers of those infected up 500 per cent from three years ago, Indian doctors said yesterday.

Referring to the 10,000 prostitutes now said to be carrying and spreading Aids, the doctors said they fear India may become the first nation in Asia to lose hundreds of thousands to the fatal disease.

"It is multiplying in a geometric fashion," said I.S. Gilda, founder several years ago of India's first Aids clinic. And he added in remarks to the Washington Post, "I don't want to alarm the public ... but this is really an alarming rate."

Of the world's 200 most severe national Aids epidemics, 18 are in poor countries. While Aids is on the decline in advanced Western nations, it is rising in the underdeveloped nations, mostly Africa and the Caribbean.

Testing remains extremely limited, in part due to lack of resources, general ignorance of Aids' dangers and embarrassment over sexual matters.

Regardless, Indian officials said the virus so far seems restricted to prostitutes in the capital of Bombay and the city of Madras.

Although there have been some public informa-

tion campaigns, one of more than a dozen Bombay prostitutes asked in an informal survey had heard of Aids. And they told the Washington Post they rarely asked customers to use a condom.

Local doctors said the prostitutes did not have access to proper health services because they were forbidden by their pimps to leave the alleys where they work.

Because prostitution is technically legal in India, there has been talk of licensing and registering the whores, and some officials want to offer pensions to train the women and cautions for other work.

Rural polls a test for Ershad

DHAKA, Feb 27, (Reuters): Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad has welcomed the participation of opposition candidates in next month's rural elections, seen as a test of his promise to stage a clean vote.

He told a rally in southern Chandpur district yesterday that the majority of candidates were members of opposition groups.

"This is very encouraging and will help strengthen democracy in Bangladesh," he said.

"This will also help resist recourse to malpractice in the polls," the official BSS news agency quoted him as saying.

The Bangladesh election commission said yesterday 2,516 candidates would contest for 453 posts as sub-district chairmen. The election is being contested on a non-party basis and voting ends on March 24.

Ershad said 981 candidates came from the main opposition Awami League, 328 from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and 260 from the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami group. He did not say how many belonged to his ruling Jatiya party.

Opposition groups boycotted 1988 parliamentary elections, saying voting would not be free and fair under Ershad.

At least three people were killed and several injured by giant hailstones that battered villages in western Bangladesh, officials said today.

They said hailstones weighing up to one kg (2.2 pounds) fell during a storm last night, flattening houses of bamboo and straw and damaging crops in the Jhenaidah district.

"Some of the stones smacked down so heavily on corrugated iron roofs that even women and children ran out in the storm for safety," a newspaper reporter in the area said.

"House compounds and vast croplands remained covered with hailstones for several hours after the storm," he added.

Local officials said 1,000 acres (400 hectares) of wheat and other crops were levelled.

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Kaifu picks cabinet resisting top bosses

Re-elected PM retains foreign, finance ministers

TOKYO, Feb. 27. (Agencies): Japan's re-elected Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu completed his new cabinet today, retaining Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama despite opposition by ruling party bosses.

Chief cabinet secretary Misoji Sakamoto told a news conference that Kaifu Muto, an expert with Japan's industry and business world, had been named to the powerful post of minister of international trade and industry.

Muto will be responsible for negotiations with the United States over

how to restructure Japan's export-oriented economy.

Tomio Yamamoto, a close aide to former prime minister Takeo Fukuda, was named agriculture minister while Yozo Ishikawa, a former mayor of a small western Tokyo suburb, was named chief of the defence agency, Sakamoto said.

Sakamoto said Kaifu had considered political ethics in naming his new cabinet, which followed the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's resounding election victory last week.

Kaifu, re-named prime minister by the newly-elected lower house of Parliament yesterday (Tuesday),

had to battle Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) bosses for more than six hours to prevent a scandal-tainted politician from being given a cabinet post in his new administration.

Former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe, who now leads the faction once led by former Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone, pushed to include Koko Sato in the cabinet.

After hours of negotiations Sato, who was convicted of taking bribes from the Lockheed aircraft company in the 1970s, announced he did not wish to be considered.

Kaifu won endorsement on Tuesday from both chambers of Parliament — the opposition-controlled upper house backed him after two centrist parties abstained — and immediately began work on his new government.

It soon became clear that he was facing heavy pressure from party barons trying to impose scandal-tainted politicians on his new cabinet.

The barons argued that the dozen or so LDP politicians smeared by last year's Recruit "shares-for-favours" scandal who were re-elected on February 18 had been "cleansed" by winning new mandates and should re-enter the political mainstream.

Media commentators said Kaifu's resistance was based on Japan's need for a crisis management cabinet which could focus on handling pressing bilateral economic and trade talks with the United States.

Kaifu travels to California this weekend to meet President George Bush and discuss US demands for concessions that would slash Japan's huge bilateral trade deficit. In 1989 the current account gap narrowed considerably but still stood at \$36.98 billion.

Dramatic share and currency nosedives in recent days must also have given indirect support for this argument, the commentators said.

Kaifu bowed as his formal re-election was proclaimed after a vote in the house and hailed by a round of rousing applause and scattered cheers.

Of 508 valid votes cast in the 512-seat chamber, Kaifu won 286. His closest rival, Socialist Party chairwoman Takako Doi, received 146 votes. Kaifu needed 255 votes for a majority.

In the 252-seat upper house, which is controlled by the opposition, Kaifu failed to win a clear majority in the first round of voting, but won in a run-off with 111 of the 246 votes cast. Ms Doi garnered 91 votes and 44 ballots were left blank.

The decision of the lower house is final, as the chamber by law can name a prime minister with or without the assent of the upper house, but the lack of consensus is rare. When Kaifu first assumed office six months ago, he was the first prime minister in 41 years who was nominated by both houses.

Toupee trick Baldies sue

TOKYO, Feb. 27. (Reuters): Five Japanese men are suing a wig company they say harassed them into buying more toupees than they needed, a consumer group said today.

Salemen from the company allegedly pressured the men to continuously buy "new and improved" versions or seasonal models, hinting that if they refused the company might scrimp on service.

One man bought 33 toupees over eight years at the hair-raising cost of 11.9 million yen (\$88,000).

Nuclear race is still on: Beijing

GENEVA, Feb. 27. (Reuters): China accused the United States and the Soviet Union today of competing to improve the quality of their nuclear arsenals while reducing the quantity.

The two superpowers were also planning to extend their arms race to outer space, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told the 40-nation Geneva disarmament conference.

He said Moscow and Washington had made only a limited headway in arms control talks.

"Even if the United States and the Soviet Union were to cut their strategic nuclear arsenals by half, they would still possess over 90 per cent of the total nuclear weapons in the world, more than enough to destroy the entire mankind several times over," Qian said.

Cuts in long-range nuclear missiles envisaged by the two powers was far less than 50 per cent.

"With the arms talks focusing mainly on the question of quantity but evading that of quality, the arms race between the two countries has not come to a genuine halt, but has turned over to the qualitative aspect," he said.

"For example, a new generation of ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles), SLBMs (Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles), strategic bombers and cruise missiles with better accuracy, penetration and mobility, has joined the already enormous strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union."

"The United States and the Soviet Union are applying the most sophisticated scientific and technological achievements to the development of space weapons."

"This will inevitably extend the current arms race on land, at sea and in the air to a new arena — outer space, thereby adding a new threat to world peace."

Qian called on both powers to stop their arms race, withdraw all troops stationed abroad, and remove all military bases in foreign countries.

Police have sharply increased surveillance of foreign journalists since lifting martial law in Beijing last month, reporters said yesterday.

Correspondents from nearly a dozen news organisations, including those from the United States, Europe and Soviet Union, said they have been tailed at least once by plainclothes police during the past few weeks, some even while jogging or shopping.

"Several (Chinese) contacts have been hauled before the leaders in their (work) units and told, 'we know you had contact with a foreign journalist and this must stop,'" said a PRC reporter. Like the other journalists, he spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of provoking official retaliation against his Chinese friends.

Taiwan has repatriated 13 Chinese nationals who claimed to be pro-democracy activists, reversing an earlier decision to grant them political asylum, a government spokesman said today.

The Chinese were deported earlier this month after further government investigation showed they did not participate in last year's pro-democracy movement, said Liu Peng-Chun, spokesman for the Exit and Entry Bureau.

China expelled two French citizens charged with engaging in illegal news gathering while travelling on tourist visas, the official press reported today.

Fabrice Goldberg and Danielle Lousatol entered the Xinjiang autonomous region, China's most western province, on Feb. 13, according to the state-run People's Daily.

China said today it did not feel isolated following the demise of communism in Eastern Europe.

"The changes that have occurred (in Eastern Europe) will not affect our links with these countries," Qian said.



Kaifu bows to applause. (Reuters wirephoto)

Let voters judge: Kim

Call for general election in Seoul

SEOUL, Feb. 27. (AP): Opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung today called for a general election to let voters judge the fairness of a recent merger of President Roh Tae-Woo's governing Democratic Justice Party with two opposition groups.

Speaking before the National Assembly as head of the Party for Peace and Democracy, Kim proposed that elections for national legislators be held in conjunction with local autonomy elections, tentatively scheduled for June.

Kim called the three-party merger a "political coup d'état" and a "breach of contract" with voters who had voted for legislators whose political parties no longer exist.

The next regular general election is not scheduled until 1992. Park Hee-Tae, spokesman for the governing party, said Kim's call for elections would create confusion.

"We are convinced that the merger is supported by the people and is the way to save the country," he said.

Roh's party formally disbanded earlier this month to form a new giant governing party with the No.2 opposition Reunification Democratic Party, headed by Kim Jong-Pil.

Roh and the two Kims said the merger was necessary to achieve political, social and economic stability by ending a strife-torn

four-party system.

In the last elections, in 1988, Roh's party lost its majority in parliament and Kim Dae-Jung's party emerged as the No.1 opposition force.

The three-party merger left Kim Dae-Jung's party as the sole minority party, while the new Ruling Democratic Liberal Party controls more than two-thirds of the 299-seat national assembly — easily enough to pass government-backed legislation or change the constitution.

Meanwhile, about 900 people, some from the now defunct opposition parties, met today to form a new opposition party tentatively named the Democratic Party.

In his national assembly speech, Kim Dae-Jung said the government should have allowed voters to decide whether they approved of the four-party system.

Radical students, workers and dissidents have staged demonstrations, some of them violent, in Seoul and other cities to protest the merger.

In addition, Kim charged that since Roh came to power in early 1988, he has failed to establish effective law and order to stem violent crime and to prevent troubles in the Korean economy. Economic growth has slowed from 12.2 per cent in 1989 to 6.5 per cent in 1989.

Vietnam denies troops returned to repel offensive in Cambodia

BANGKOK, Feb. 27. (Agencies): Vietnam's official news agency has denied reports that thousands of Vietnamese troops have returned to Cambodia to help repel a guerrilla offensive.

The Vietnam News Agency late yesterday noted foreign news reports of the alleged troop movements, and said it was "authorised to announce that these are totally fabricated news reported with ill intentions."

A text of the two-sentence report was seen in Bangkok today.

Cambodia's state news agency SPK yesterday said charges by Western countries that

there were Vietnamese troops around the ancient capital of Angkor and other areas were designed to damage the Cambodian government's reputation.

"It should be pointed out that there is not a single Vietnamese volunteer soldier in the area or in the whole of Cambodia from September 1989," said the report seen in Bangkok today.

Vietnam said it pulled out the last of its troops in September. It had invaded Cambodia in late 1978, ousting the murderous Khmer Rouge and installing another communist government.

The Khmer Rouge and its guerrilla partners — the forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front — stepped up attacks immediately after the Vietnamese withdrawal. They seized several district capitals and threatened Battambang, the country's second-largest city, and Sisophon, a government military operations centre.

Guerrilla commanders and captured government soldiers said in recent interviews that several thousand Vietnamese troops returned to help defend against the offensive. Western diplomats monitoring the war from



Mandela embraces Arafat. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mandela seeks help Hero's welcome in Lusaka

LUSAKA, Feb. 27. (UPI): Black nationalist Nelson Mandela arrived today to a foot-stomping, flag-waving hero's welcome for his first meeting with exiled leaders of the African National Congress in more than 27 years.

Mandela hugged dignitaries from around the world who welcomed him in Lusaka, including leaders of Southern Africa's frontline states and the exiled ANC officials during his six-day stay in Zambia. His meetings with ANC leaders in Lusaka are expected to focus on his future role in the movement and mounting pressure on the ANC to suspend its armed struggle.

Endorsing a strong appeal by the Anglican bishops of Southern Africa issued over the weekend, Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark told reporters last night a suspension of the armed struggle would be "an additional constructive step" toward getting negotiations off the ground.

"I think it would be helpful for the ANC to take the decision itself, to move away from the commitment to the armed struggle, make it unequivocal that the preference is peaceful negotiation," Clark said.

Kaunda also has endorsed a suspension of the armed struggle — a move South African President Frederik de Klerk has stated repeatedly would improve the climate for power-sharing talks.

But, Mandela said, if we are compelled to resort to arms "the responsibility for this lies firmly on shoulders of the government."

The ANC has vowed to maintain

its military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe — spear of the nation — but left open the possibility of a negotiated ceasefire with the South African military once talks are under way.

Two weeks after de Klerk outlined his bold racial reforms Feb. 2, the ANC announced it would send a delegation to South Africa for direct talks on issues standing in the way of negotiations — intended, to end the country's racial conflict.

Among those who greeted Mandela at Lusaka International Airport today were leaders of several Southern African frontline states, Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania, Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, Quett Masire of Botswana and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

Despite calls for peace between supporters of the ANC and a rival black movement, fighting erupted for the third day today in the strife-torn South African province of Natal.

At least five people have been killed since Mandela urged his supporters Sunday to "close down the death factories."

The South African opposition called today for the suspension of the defence minister while the government investigates charges that a secret military unit murdered anti-apartheid activists.

The Democratic Party said Gen. Magnus Maken, Defence Minister since 1981, must be suspended until a probe into the military's civil cooperation bureau is concluded.

Bernama gets sole rights for foreign news

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb. 27. (Reuters): Malaysia introduced a bill today to give the National Bernama News Agency sole rights to distribute foreign news in the country.

The bill also seeks to allow Bernama, currently a non-profit statutory body, to pursue profits and to cease being guided by UN declarations for freedom of information.

Parliamentary sources said the bill, which would amend the 1967 Bernama Act, is expected to be passed by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's government without major changes at the current three-week parliamentary sitting.

Opposition members criticised the bill as another weapon in the government's already formidable arsenal of controls over both the local and foreign press.

Liang elected Taipei speaker

TAIPEI, Feb. 27. (UPI): The legislative Yuan chose a senior mainland China-elected member today as its speaker in a speedy and peaceful election one week after rioting and protests prevented the holding of scheduled polls.

In an unprecedented action, it also observed a minute of silence in commemoration of the revolt on Feb. 28, 1947, when thousands of native Taiwanese were killed by mainland troops in clashes around the island, and a taboo subject until recently.

The legislature voted overwhelmingly to elect incumbent deputy speaker Liang Su-Yung, 69, to head the lawmaking body, but political analysts said his 71-per cent win was lower than the margin of victory of ruling

Kuomintang candidates in past years.

He was elected with 172 votes out of 214 valid ballots in the KMT-dominated body, beating out Chang Chun-Hsiung of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party and an independent candidate.

Opposition and Liberal Ruling Party legislators immediately called for Liang, who has been frozen in office since he was first elected from Liaopoh province on the China mainland 40 years ago, to resign on the grounds that he no longer has representative power.

His running mate, Liu Sung-Fan, 58, was elected deputy speaker in a late afternoon election, becoming the first native Taiwanese to serve in the leadership post.

Ivory Coast unrest flares

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Feb. 27. (AP): Riot police exploding tear-gas and stun grenades yesterday stopped unnamed students protesting from reaching the presidential office, where the government dismissed an economic crisis.

President Felix Houphouët-Boigny chaired the meeting with workers and employers, who reportedly reacted negatively to his proposals for more austerity measures.

A delegate at the meeting said Houphouët-Boigny told them he needed to consider their response and was postponing a national council meeting until later in the week.

The council of 2,000 delegates from organisations and interest groups including trade unions, businesses and legislators, originally was to meet yesterday.

The delegates, who requested anonymity, said they were particularly disturbed by a proposal to increase a "solidarity tax" on income from one per cent to 10 per cent.

A foreign journalist watched a carload of policemen throw tear-gas grenades along the route to the presidential palace before Houphouët-Boigny drove up to attend his meeting.

While they met, about 200 students ran through downtown Abidjan, demanding the release of detained colleagues and freedom of expression. Protesters also demanded a meeting with Houphouët-Boigny.

Riot police fired tear-gas and buried a stun grenade in a noisy explosion heard throughout the city centre, frightening protesters waving placards to scatter.

At the National University of Ivory Coast campus, in Cocody suburb, students said police fired tear gas to disperse about 150 students who were "shouting slogans and demanding their right to dissent."

In the residential suburb of Adjame, police beat up students and school children who set up a blockade outside the marketplace, witnesses said.

Witnesses said police also fired tear-gas and hurled stun grenades at students in Yopougon, a working class suburb where the unrest began Feb. 19, when they refused to board three buses going from their dormitories to the main university campus seven kilometres (three miles) away.

Students said they were observing a boycott, defying an appeal by the President on Sunday night for the unrest to end and classes to resume.

Houphouët-Boigny made the call after he ordered the release of 137 students beaten and detained on Saturday when they voluntarily ended a 10-hour occupation of St. Paul's Catholic Cathedral, in the capital's centre.

The students said they are protesting social injustices best illustrated by the system of grants.

"Some (cabinet) ministers sons and other high-ranking government officials' children who drive to the university in BMWs (automobiles) are given grants. We, whose parents are poor farmers whose incomes have been halved, do not get grants," a militant student leader charged.

■ Cabon: A wave of strikes which cut off Gabon from the outside world continued today, with telephone and telegraph service only partially restored and the airport closed.

■ Mozambique: Mozambican rebels claimed yesterday that government forces backed by Zimbabwean troops and planes have launched a major offensive against guerrilla positions in central Mozambique.

Children burnt alive

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 27. (Reuters): Two children whose parents were believed to be withdoctors were burnt to death when youths set a fire to their house in the South African tribal homeland of Venda, police said today.

A Venda police spokesman said the two boys, aged two years and seven months, were asleep when the youths attacked late last night. Their parents tried but failed to rescue them.

The deaths are the latest in a string of witchcraft-related murders in the homeland. More than 19 people were killed in a resurgence of witchcraft-related violence two weeks ago, and several Venda officials have been charged with ritual murder in the past few years.

Anti-apartheid campaigners say tribal rule is partly to blame. Opposition leaders are among those who have been killed and dismembered.

Church workers said yesterday a strike by thousands of civil servants including police and soldiers, demanding wages equal to their South African counterparts, had virtually paralysed the homeland.



Indonesia Foreign Minister Ali Alatas (left) gestures to reporters. At right is French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Gales blow out 37 lives

LONDON, Feb 27, (AP): The second most severe storm of the winter claimed 37 lives in seven European countries, flooded and blacked-out parts of Britain and continued to disrupt road and rail links today, authorities said.

Fourteen deaths were reported in Britain, seven in France, seven in West Germany, five in Belgium, two in East Germany and one each in Ireland and the Netherlands as winds hit 100 miles (160 kilometres) per hour yesterday.

In Ireland, residents had more than wild weather to worry. Four circus tigers escaped when their cage was blown over near Drogheda during yesterday's storm. The animals were later rounded up.

Shipping in the English Channel and the Irish Sea continued to be badly disrupted today by strong winds.

Monday's storm was the second big storm to hit Europe since Jan 25, when 95 people were killed by a gale with winds up to 106 miles (170 kilometres) per hour. A storm that lashed southern England on Feb 7 with winds up to 80 miles (130 kilometres) per hour left two dead.

In Britain, yesterday's victims included a driver whose bus hit a fallen tree, a man killed by a collapsing chimney and a woman hit by a roof tile.

In the North Wales neighbouring seaside towns of Towyn and Kinnel Bay, police and rescue workers evacuated 2,000 people from their homes after waves opened up a hole 200 yards (180 metres) wide in the sea wall. Water up to five feet (1.5 metres) deep poured through the streets, flooding homes and cutting power and telephone links.

Rescuers used boats, helicopters, fire engines, buses and police vehicles to carry people to emergency centres set up on higher ground by social service agencies.

The assistant chief constable of North Wales, John Owen, said people in the evacuation centres should prepare to stay in them for several days because of expected high tides during the week.

Homes bordering the Bristol Channel in Western England were flooded, many roads and railroad tracks were blocked by fallen trees, and more than 125,000 homes in the "Tales" valley near Llanelli, in South Wales, in and around southern England and in Northern Ireland were without power yesterday.

In West Germany's northern port city of Hamburg, a woman was killed when a gust pushed her in front of a car, and her two children were injured when a large billboard fell on them, and a crane was blown over, damaging dock buildings.

Another crane was blown over at Neuland near Frankfurt in central Hesse state, killing the operator. The storm spoiled West Germany's Rose yesterday pre-Lent carnival, when crowds traditionally parade through city streets in fancy dress accompanied by decorated floats.

Strong winds wrecked 12 floats in Dusseldorf, Bonn a parade was cancelled and in Mainz 250,000 people — 100,000 fewer than expected — paraded in rain-soaked carnival costumes.

The dead in France included a three-year-old girl killed by a falling branch in Avesnes-sur-Helpe in the north of the country. In Paris, a man was killed by a falling wall and a 17-year-old was killed by a slamming door.

In the Belgian port of Antwerp, a boat sank after a 15-ton crane dropped onto the vessel, injuring several people. All ships remained in port in Belgium's North Sea harbours yesterday and train traffic to the Netherlands was interrupted.

At Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, the Netherlands' flag carrier KLM suspended 13 international flights yesterday. Seven people were hurt at a pre-Lent carnival in the southern town of Beek when a big tent blew down.

Bush summons environ meet

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (Reuters): US President George Bush yesterday formally invited some 20 countries including the Soviet Union to a White House conference on global warming and environmental issues on April 17 and 18.

Bush, who has been accused by environmental organisations of reneging on a 1988 campaign promise to lead an international effort to control global warming, first promised to convene the conference at his December 1989 summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

It was a waste of time, waste of resources, waste of paper — all those articles were published," Gorbachev said. "There was great damage and the public morale and the trust to the intelligence security services in Western countries was impaired. It was a pity. It was totally unnecessary."

Gorbachev said the late Sir Roger Hollis, who headed Britain's M15 counterespionage service from 1956, was not a Soviet agent.

Writer Chapman Pincher and former M15 officer Peter Wright, whose book "Spycatcher" the British government tried but failed to suppress after lengthy court battles, have both alleged that Hollis was almost certainly a Soviet spy.

Pincher, responding to Gorbachev's remarks, said the KGB restricted information about high-level double agents, and Gorbachev would have been too junior to have known.

Gorbachev said he was in a position to know whether the KGB had recruited high-level agents like Hollis or his deputy director at M15, Graham Mitchell.

"It was inconceivable really not to know if there had been such an important agent of KGB. If a person like him (Hollis) had been a KGB agent the people would have gossiped," Gorbachev said.



Japanese tourists brave the severe gales at Paris' Trocadero as high winds once again hit the capital. (Reuter wirephoto)



Severe storms flooded the sea-front promenade in Blackpool, England. (Reuter wirephoto)

All-powerful Soviet presidency created

Gorbachev's proposal wins wide approval

MOSCOW, Feb 27, (Agencies): Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal for a strong Western-style presidency won approval today from the Supreme Soviet legislature despite objections that it would vest too much power in one post.

Amid shouts of protest from lawmakers who had warned of the dangers of dictatorship, Gorbachev called the vote for his proposal "a great political event in the history of our state."

The Supreme Soviet voted 347-24, with 43 abstentions, in favour of the bill that approves creation of the presidency in principle. The bill now goes to committees that will consider numerous amendments proposed during today's heated debate.

The Congress of People's Deputies, the larger parent body of the

Supreme Soviet, is to meet March 12-13 to elect a president.

The bill would give the president sweeping powers to declare war, veto legislation, impose a state of emergency and call a referendum on legislative decisions. It was not immediately clear what amendments had been proposed.

Gorbachev, currently chairman of the Supreme Soviet, considered the head of government, is considered the likely first president, although he has declined to say if he would be a candidate.

He also is Communist Party leader, the traditional supreme power in the Soviet Union. He has said a strong president is needed as part of his plan to transfer power from the Communist Party to the government.

Over the weekend, pro-democracy demonstrators in several cities said the proposed stronger president could become a dictator. One sign

at a Leningrad rally warned the Gorbachev proposal could lead to fascism.

Approval of the measure to change radically the Soviet political hierarchy came after two days of debate spread over a two-week period and one day after legislators received copies of the bill.

Gorbachev chaired today's session and engaged in heated exchanges with legislators protesting the measure and what they called pressure for the chamber to approve it quickly.

At one point, he said the critics engaged in "cheap demagoguery," drawing angry shouts. "Everything I believe necessary to say I'll say," the 58-year-old Kremlin chief yelled back.

One legislator, a taxi driver from the Ukraine who last year compared Gorbachev to Napoleon on national television, said today's session foreshadowed the proposed new leadership.

"The way the voting went from the floor today is the same way presidential power will be," Leonid Sukhov shouted in an obvious reference to Gorbachev's pressure.

On Feb 14, the Supreme Soviet refused to set a timetable for approving a presidency modelled after the US and French systems of government. Legislators expressed continued opposition during today's debate, but ended up strongly supporting the measure.

Politburo member Alexander Yakovlev told the legislators the new post was needed to speed reform and prevent "uocoo-stitutional striving for power," but that it should not be seen as a cure-all to the country's ills.

But liberals led by Sergei Stankevich, a student of US politics and spokesman for the inter-regional deputies group, and Anatoly Sobchak, a Leningrad legislator, said the presidency as proposed would be open to abuse.

Sobchak told the 542-member legislature in a session chaired by Gorbachev: "All our decisions can be crossed out by the president."

control and concentration not to reveal myself by body language, by a gesture — in particular I was afraid of blushing so I made a tremendous effort to control from my nervous system of my skin not to blush."

He said he was called to Moscow in 1985 under false pretences and then questioned about his activities. Despite being drugged during interrogations, he said, he revealed nothing and realised he had to escape.

"I was very worried two or three days later when I started to recollect the whole content of the interrogation. I realised that I was under strong suspicion and my life was in great danger," he said.

He declined to talk about the contacts who helped him to escape, but described how he stuffed his suitcase with identification papers and money, then set off on his daily jog past KGB surveillance officers.

He was transferred to London where he became one of the top KGB agents in Britain. He first learned that the Soviets were suspicious of his activities in 1979 when a senior female agent confronted him and six other KGB members about intelligence leaks, he said.

"And of course I knew that I was the source of leaks. It demanded from me a tremendous self-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Havel, Gorbachev meet: Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev announced an agreement Monday for all Soviet troops to be withdrawn from Czechoslovakia by July 1, 1991.

Havel met with Gorbachev after arriving on his first official visit to the Soviet Union since he was elected Dec 29 as Czechoslovakia's first non-communist president in 41 years.

The visit coincided with the start of the withdrawal of 73,500 Soviet troops still stationed in Czechoslovakia, nearly 22 years after Moscow sent its military forces to crush the Prague Spring reforms.

Havel flew to Moscow for talks with Gorbachev just three days after returning from the United States, where he met with President George Bush. (AP)



Homage

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel (right) stands in front of the late Andrei Sakharov's grave with his grieving widow Yelena Bonner (left) in a Moscow cemetery. Both Sakharov and Havel were persecuted by communist authorities as they campaigned for human rights some ten years ago. (Reuter wirephoto)

Soviets troops withdrawn: Soviet troops on Monday began pulling out of Czechoslovakia in the first stage of an unprecedented total withdrawal from the territory of a Warsaw Pact ally.

Twenty-two Soviet T-62 tanks loaded on flatcars left the northern town of Trestat, signalling the start of the Red Army's return home 22 years after marching in to crush liberal reforms.

A second train, its engine pulling cars laden with 33 armoured vehicles, left from the Domasov Nad Bystri station near the Libava Soviet Base in eastern Czechoslovakia just hours later.

The withdrawal Monday marked the start of a three-stage pullback of 73,500 Soviet troops that is scheduled for completion next year. (AP)

Looks a lame duck: Three weeks before the country's first free elections, East Germany's lame-duck government appears powerless to deal with its complex economic and political problems.

With German unity the burning issue, West Germany seems reluctant to do business with a provisional administration still heavily staffed with communists three months after their hardline leaders were toppled.

From street demonstrations to all-party talks, normal political forces in the last few heady months have lost their edge in anticipation of a democratically-elected government.

"The days of Prime Minister Hans Modrow are numbered. What he does and what he does not do is only of limited relevance," West German historian Brigitte Seebach wrote in the daily Rheinischer Merkur. (Reuters)

Castro: Ceausescu of the Caribbean: Cuban President Fidel Castro is "the Ceausescu of the Caribbean" and runs one of the world's most repressive governments, the United States charged at the UN commission on human rights Tuesday.

US delegate Armando Valladares told the commission's 46th annual session that 1989 was "a year of historic transition."

Freedom and democracy gained momentum worldwide, especially in Eastern Europe and most recently in Nicaragua, he said.

Call for democracy: More than 20,000 people, chanting "democracy" and "liberty" massed in the Bulgarian capital Monday in a rally directed against the ruling Communist Party.

The peaceful demonstration was the second in two straight days. At least 150,000 people gathered Sunday in Sofia on Sunday chanting "down with the Communist Party," in the largest rally since the toppling of hardline leader Todor Zhivkov in November.

During Monday's protest, the crowd, which carried lit candles and jangled their keys, again gathered in the square in front of the Communist Party headquarters in response to an appeal of the Union of Democratic Forces grouping major opposition movements.

Both rallies were staged despite placatory decisions of the party's supreme council on Friday to ban communist cells at the workplace, postpone general elections from May to June — the opposition had sought a delay until November to give it time to prepare — and call foreign observers to monitor the voting. (AP)

Greece, Turkey clash: Greece, charging the UN Human Rights Commission, charged on Monday that cultural treasures in the Turkish-controlled part of Cyprus are pillaged or destroyed to erase the Hellenistic roots of the island.

The statement was immediately rejected by Turkey as part of a "policy of propaganda" that prevented a genuine dialogue.

Greek chief delegate Euripides P. Kerkiras, told the 43-nation body that the pillaged treasures were "sold to all corners of the world." (AP)

Reasons unknown Global weather changing

NEW ORLEANS, Feb 27, (Reuters): The world's warmest decade of the century has just ended and weather patterns around the globe seem to be distorted.

Alaska is getting warmer and the North Pacific is getting colder.

But scientists cannot say for certain whether recent climate changes are caused by the follies of man or the whims of nature.

A lack of computing power, data and understanding of the physical world is making it impossible for scientists to predict either global or regional climate changes on a long-term basis, or determine the cause of those changes.

The scientific community is virtually united on the hypothesis that the burning of fossil fuels releases the so-called "greenhouse" gases, particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂), that trap heat near the earth's surface and thus cause temperatures to rise.

"One of the phenomena we understand best is the greenhouse effect," said Michael Schlesinger, professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Illinois. "We may not understand an enhanced greenhouse effect ... but I am absolutely certain that temperatures will rise."

But scientists cannot say whether the greenhouse effect is already in place and, if it is, what effect it is having on the world's weather.

"Climate has always changed since the earth was formed and climate will continue to change, regardless of the greenhouse gases," said David Aubrey, a scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts.

Thus, there is little unanimity about the cause of recent seemingly unusual weather patterns. For while most of the world has been steadily growing warmer since the end of World War Two, the warmest decade in the United States was the 1930s — before the massive industrialisation of the country.

And, while the largest recent global warming trend has been in Alaska, the neighbouring North Pacific Ocean has got colder.

There are five established computer models of global weather patterns and each of them, using the same set of data, comes up with a different scenario for the next 50 years.

"The trouble is there are fundamental flaws in each of the models," said Roger Revelle, director of the Programme in Science, Technology and Public Affairs at the University of California at San Diego.

"We don't really understand the way oceans, clouds and several other things interact to make weather in a particular effect," he said. "Even if we increased existing computer power by hundred-fold, we would still have problems because we just don't understand the physics of climate."

This uncertainty is not uncommon in many scientific fields but in the area of climate it gives government policy makers a reason to delay action on reducing CO₂ emissions.

US President George Bush's only concrete action in this area, for example, has been to call for more research. He told an international conference on climate change this month that scientific knowledge must be improved before policies can be put in place.

"Some may be tempted to exploit legitimate concerns for political positioning. Our responsibility is to maintain the quality of our approach, our commitment to sound science and an open mind to policy options," Bush said.

However, scientists at the recent American Association for the Advancement of Science conference in New Orleans said it will take a minimum of 10 years before computer modelling will even begin to accurately predict climate change.

In the meantime, they say, CO₂ emissions will continue to rise, making the greenhouse effect harder to reverse.

"By the time the climatic response to greenhouse gases is obvious, it may be impossible to reverse global warming," said Kevin Trenberth of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado.

Most scientists do agree that the Earth has warmed up by about 0.6 degrees Celsius in the past 100 years — a significant change considering that global temperatures have risen a total of only five degrees C since the end of the ice age 18,000 years ago.

It is also widely agreed that there has been a 25 per cent increase in the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere since the mid-1800s, thanks to industrialisation.

And most models show that, if CO₂ emissions increase by one per cent a year, a conservative estimate, the volume of the gas in the Earth's atmosphere will have doubled in the next 40 to 60 years.

There is less agreement on what happens next. Although the Earth is expected to get warmer, temperature predictions range from an increase of less than one degree C to as high as five degrees C.

The different climate models all show some disruption to weather systems at any temperature increase of more than one degree C.

According to these models, sea levels would be likely to rise, causing coastal flooding. Also, there would be more precipitation in some areas and severe droughts in others.

But no one is sure how global warming would affect specific regions. As a result, some scientists and many economists are opposed to big, and expensive, changes in fuel consumption.

There is little certainty about the extent of mean global warming," said Lester Lave, economics professor at Carnegie-Mellon University. "In contrast, the cost of abating the emissions of greenhouse gases is certain."

Old foes form a talking committee

LONDON, Feb 27, (AP): It was hardly the fall of the Berlin Wall, but the ceremony yesterday in the House of Commons also was historic in a modest way.

It brought Irish and British lawmakers together as a joint parliamentary body for the first time in nearly 70 years.

In the Jubilee Room of the cavernous House of Commons, champagne glasses chimed in jovial harmony and Irish and British voices once again discussed the question that has vexed the two island nations for centuries: How to understand each other.

"Our two people have an infinite capacity for mutual misunderstanding," Garrett Fitzgerald, the former Irish prime minister, said in an interview, "and the opportunity to sit down and talk to each other, know each other, understand how each other's minds work and dissipate some of the prejudices by undermining them, I think is very important."

The British-Irish inter-parliamentary body has no legislative powers, and the job of its 25 Irish and 25 British members will be limited almost entirely to talk.

Peter Brooke, Britain's top official in Northern Ireland, has been talking about new possibilities of bringing feuding Protestant and Catholic leaders together; Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey is to pay a rare visit to Belfast in April; and increasingly, Northern Irishers are asking what 20 years of bloodshed and nearly 3,000 deaths have accomplished.

Vienna to stop security checks

VIENNA, Feb 27, (AP): Reacting to a growing scandal, Interior Minister Franz Loeschak said yesterday that clandestine security checks on individuals conducted by police at the request of companies and foreign embassies would stop.

A storm of protest erupted last week after a parliamentary panel disclosed that the state security police had examined the background of individuals without their knowledge.

The results of police investigation into the private lives of executives, job seekers and other people were made available with little legal basis to companies and foreign embassies that had requested them.

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Support Palestinians, says Islamic council

Confront non-Islamic blocs call

CAIRO, Feb 27, (Kuna): At the conclusion of its third conference here yesterday, the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs expressed appreciation for the initiative by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed to ease the international debt problem.

Ministers of Islamic Affairs and Awqaf of 21 Islamic states and 80 prominent Islamic figures and delegations from the Islamic world, who attended the conference from February 23 to 26, appealed to the international community to respond to the constructive initiative of Sheikh Jaber.

The conference considered the Palestin-

ian question as the most important Islamic issue, calling on Islamic states to support the Palestinians to achieve self-determination and establish its independent state.

The conferees also condemned the Israeli repressive policies including the re-settling of Soviet Jews in occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Co-ordination

Reaffirming the Islamic nation's stance on retaining Jerusalem as an Arab and Islamic city, the conferees again condemned Israeli sacrilegious acts in holy Al Aqsa Mosque, calling on Muslims to sup-

port efforts in this direction.

The conferees called on Islamic states to co-ordinate among themselves financially and economically to confront giant economic blocs outside the Islamic world and avoid its negative impacts on the economies of the Islamic countries.

Supporting the initiative by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein of global peace that conforms with Islamic teachings and humanity, the conference called on Iran to respond to the initiative that spares best atmospheres of mutual understanding and confidence for just and permanent peace in the region and the Islamic world in general.

The Lebanese crisis was not a result of a religious dispute, the conferees stressed, appealing to all sects of Lebanon to along with the Lebanese legitimacy of President Elias Hrawi to halt the ongoing bloodshed.

The conferees called on the Islamic states to continue supporting the struggle of the Afghan people to accomplish their freedom.

Hailing efforts exerted by Egypt to resolve the inter-Muslim conflict between Senegal and Mauritania, the conferees called on both countries to solve such dispute on basis of Islamic principles of forgiveness.

Traffic safety course at KU

By Lima Al Khalafawi

Arab Times staff

CHARACTERISTICS of drivers, pedestrians, vehicles and roads was the topic presented by Dr Saleh Yaseen, from the Faculty of Engineering, Kuwait University.

Speaking at the opening of the Traffic and Safety Course, for police officers, held at Kuwait University, Yaseen said that one problem that faces traffic and transportation engineers when considering driver characteristics in design, is the varying skills and perceptual abilities of drivers on the highway. Another consideration is to provide adequate solution to traffic problems. He added that the main characteristics of the drivers are the visual acuity that is of importance in traffic and highway emergencies perception to information and detection to moving objects and hearing perception.

The main pedestrian characteristic is walking that plays a major part in his/her safety. Significant differences have been observed between male and female walking speeds.

For the safety of blind and handicapped pedestrians in many countries abroad, special signals were installed by which the blind can turn the signal to a red phase by using a special key which rings a bell, indicating to the pedestrians it is safe to cross. Ramps were provided at intersection curbs to facilitate the crossing of intersections by occupants of wheel chairs.

Standard
Yaseen said that vehicle characteristics include weight, size and the motion of the vehicle. He added that it is essential that a design criteria meet the requirements of the characteristics for different types of vehicles.

The size of design of vehicle for a highway is an important input in the determination of design standard for physical components of the highway, these include lane width, shoulder width, length and width of parking bays and lengths of vertical curves.

He concluded that the interaction between driver and the road is very important. Bad behaviour of many drivers could be attributed to bad designs and malpractices on the road.

Speaking on traffic management, Dr Alan Nicholson of Canterbury, New Zealand, said that the transportation system is tightly inter-related with the socio-economic system. The role of the transportation system is to serve the activity system, which comprises the pattern of social and economic activities of residents.

He added that the flow-pattern, activity system are the main points for transportation planners and engineers working on changes to the transportation system.

Nicholson said that good traffic movement involves the following seven steps:

Identifying the nature and extent of traffic problems and the objectives of intervening (e.g. reducing delays, stops and/or accidents. Evaluating the possible solutions (e.g. the effects on delays, stops and/or accidents).

He added that other steps also include deciding on the best solution, implementing the chosen solution and monitoring to find whether the original problem has been solved and whether new problems have developed.

Nicholson said that the goal of traffic management is the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Safety is generally measured by accidents (e.g. the number of accidents in a period). Efficiency is frequently measured by delay and/or stops. Sometimes efficiency and safety can be simultaneously improved; sometimes an improvement in efficiency is accompanied by a decrease in safety (and vice versa).



Amir receives Nujoma

HH the Amir yesterday received Sam Nujoma (centre), the president-elect of Namibia. Nujoma is on a visit to Kuwait.

More support to local industries requested

Kuwaiti exhibition

By Khaled Ahmad

THE Fourth Kuwait Industries Exhibition recently at the International Fair Ground in Mishrif includes 65 industrial companies and establishments covering a wide variety of industries like food, paints, construction materials, electronics and other commodities.

Al Seyassah toured the exhibition and interviewed a number of representatives. The manager of Dashed and Sayegh Factories, Abdul Latif Husain described participating in the exhibition as a good opportunity to enlighten the public on Kuwaiti industries. He said that his line of products include a range of construction materials. He added that new models of construction materials have been displayed and that Kuwait has a kiln factory according to international standards. A new kiln factory was opened in Amghara area on the occasion of Kuwait's National Day.

He pointed out that the production capacity of construction materials is high compared to other neighbouring countries and that they are manufactured according to international standards and approved by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Lower prices

Regarding prices of construction materials, Husain indicated that locally made products are sold at lower prices than imported products. He stressed that more government support is required for local industry. The Cement Producers Union in Kuwait co-ordinates work among local factories in order to remove obstacles. He added that government support for local industries is low in Kuwait and there is no protection. He stressed that local factories have been successful in attracting more buyers within the Kuwaiti market.

Hasnain Al Khalaf, the owner and general manager of Kuwait Perfumes Factory stressed that he was keen to participate in Kuwait Industries Exhibition for marketing benefits. He added that Kuwait

Perfumes Factory is the only factory in the area and that its line of products are quite popular among consumers. He indicated that despite the success achieved in the perfume industries in Kuwait, this type of industry is still considered premature and requires a lot of support.

Emphases

Zafar Al Khateeb, a sales engineer at the Electrical Boards Factory company said that his company specialises in the manufacturing of electrical control panels adding that this type of industry has so far achieved a lot of progress during the past twenty years.

He stressed that the company places more emphasis on government sector and government project requirements. Only 20 per cent of the factory production is allocated for the private sector in Kuwait. He stated that there are seven factories in Kuwait that deal with the same line of production adding that prices of products offered by these factories are competitive compared with import.

Saad Jaddallah from the Kuwait Company for Metal Pipes said that his company has entered the production line in 1966 and that it markets its products locally and externally. He stated that markets in Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Sudan are considered among the oldest markets for company products. He added that special studies are currently being conducted for the establishment of a large factory which will cover local requirements. He pointed out that company participation in the exhibition is aimed towards informing the public of this type of industry.

On the other hand, a section of industrial officials stated that Kuwait succeeded in entering many industrial sectors which have been only monopolised by advanced countries. They added that government support for local industries along with protection requires assessment in the frame of new industrial policy. They pointed out that some of the industries have as yet not been fully developed.



Social affairs delegation

Director of the Community Service and Continuous Education Department at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Engineer Ghiloum Hassan Al Attar received a delegation from ministries of Social Affairs and Labour at GCC states recently. The delegation is currently visiting the country to take a look at measures specially organised to nationalise posts at private sector establishments in Kuwait. The delegation and officials exchanged talks on different issues and the necessity of uniting efforts to reach adequate resolutions for the issue via applied education and training policies.

Kuwaiti missions celebrate N. Day

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (Kuna): Kuwait's Ambassador to Washington Sheikh Saoud Nasser Al Sabah held here a reception at the embassy on the occasion of Kuwait's 29th National Day, February 25th.

The ceremony was attended by senior US State Department officials, Arab and foreign ambassadors to Washington in addition to Kuwaiti students studying in American universities.

● In Moscow, the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission hosted a reception celebrating the 29th National Day of Kuwait.

President of the Supreme Soviet and First Deputy Foreign Minister as well as other ranking Soviet officials in addition to heads of the diplomatic missions here attended the reception.

● In London, Kuwaiti Ambassador Gazi Al Rayis Monday evening hosted a reception celebrating the country's 29th National Day.

A number of British officials and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions attended the reception which was held at the Intercontinental Hotel in central London.

● Kuwaiti Ambassador to France, Dr Tariq Razouqi hosted a reception at his residence Monday evening on the occasion of Kuwait's 29th National Day.

The reception was attended by French Secretary of State for International Cultural Relations, Thierry de Beaucourt, Defence Secretary of State Gerard Renon and officials from various official institutions.

The reception was also attended by the Deputy speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, Michel Sassine, head of the Lebanese national coalition Raymond Edde and a number of Lebanese deputies presently residing in the French capital.

The Arab diplomatic corps and several ambassadors from friendly nations were present at the reception as well as crowd of Arab and foreign journalists.

Members of the Kuwaiti community in France attended the reception at the ambassador's residence, including representatives of Kuwaiti interests and financial establishments.

● In Geneva, more than 700 people attended a reception Monday evening to honour the 29th National Day of Kuwait at the Kuwait embassy.

Among those present at the celebration to mark the National Day of Kuwait were prominent personalities from the diplomatic mission in Geneva, senior officials of the United Nations, and representatives from the Canton of Geneva.

The guests were received by Sheikh Salem Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the ambassador of Kuwait, his wife, and officials and staff of the mission of Kuwait.

● In Kuala Lumpur, more than 500 guests, including heads of the diplomatic missions, Malaysian senior government officials, Islamic leaders, educationists and members of the business community attended an official reception to mark Kuwait's National Day at a leading hotel.

Kuwait to celebrate World Health Day

Diabetes symposium March 4-8

By Diana Abou Haidar

Arab Times staff

GOOD Health is a Result of a Clean Environment—will be the theme of Kuwait's activities celebrating the World Health Day, said Dr Hussain Al Momen, head of a special committee set up by the Ministry of Public Health to organise such activities.

In a press conference yesterday, Momen said that public lectures, contests and exhibitions have been planned for a period of three months starting the beginning of March.

"We have decided to start celebrations early because the World Health Day falls on April 7 in the holy month of Ramadan," he said.

Momen said that the theme of health and environment was set by the World Health Organisation that requested member countries to stress on it in their public awareness campaigns. "Smoking, noise pollution and cleanliness are some of the issues that are going to be discussed in these public lectures."

The ministry is also planning an open swimming tournament for April 4, 5 and 8," said Mohamed Al Doob, of the ministry's sports committee. The tournament will be held at Kuwait University, Khaldiya

campus and will be open for all individuals from age 10 up including the handicapped.

Momen added that a commemorative stamp will be issued to celebrate the occasion.

Meanwhile, the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University has announced that it will organise the 4th International Symposium on Medical Sciences with special emphasis on diabetes at its premises in Jabriya from March 4 to 8.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah will patronise the opening session which will be attended by representatives from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Jordan and Kuwait.

Assistant dean of the faculty Dr Khaled Eid Al Nassar said that the selection of diabetes as the focus of the fourth congress is not a coincidence, but was selected unanimously by the organising committee as 10 per cent of the country's population are diabetics.

He stressed the role of the media in disseminating health education, and that a special symposium will be held on March 7 to discuss the vital importance of health education, calling on all information media

to provide adequate coverage of this event.

He said that special bulletins and publications with details of the disease will be distributed during the symposium and a commercial fair will be held for pharmaceutical products and medical apparatuses. He added that a French company had offered to undertake expenses of the workshop.

The official said that the research papers to be discussed will be published in international specialised scientific periodicals, including the university's Medical Basics and Practices Journal. He added that 230 participants, of whom 110 from Kuwait and 120 from abroad representing 24 countries will take part in the congress.

Dr Khaled Jum'a, chairman of the organising committee said that seven work sessions will be held on the fringes of the symposium in English, each lasting for four hours, with the morning session beginning at 8.30 and the evening at 2.30.

He said that the first session will discuss the nature of the disease, the second will deal with the factor of heredity and immunity, while the third will be devoted to discussing the mechanical operation of the insulin hormone and related complications and the fourth will deal with treatment.

Boost in freight sector expected

Manama to launch anti-cancer campaign

By Yakub Razaque

Arab Times staff

A LEADING cargo executive has called for the introduction of "Sea-Air" system in Bahrain to boost the freight forwarding business in the island during this decade.

Chondru Gurnani, general manager of Al-Mulla Cargo and Packing, a leading cargo firm in the country, told the Arab Times in an interview about the urgent need of implementing the "Sea-Air" system (which is already very successfully practised in neighbouring Dubai) in Bahrain as the move will benefit all concerned in the cargo industry by cutting down transit-time of freight to a minimum on the way to final destinations both in terms of inbound and outbound goods from the island.

Gurnani expressed surprise and even concern that for a long time now no one in this business has brought up the matter of introducing the "Sea-Air" system to the relevant authorities as this method, which is widely and successfully adopted in the world's major sea ports, will help develop the potentially lucrative cargo industry in Bahrain.

"There is great potential to increase existing volume of cargo business during the nineties in Bahrain. The Sea-Air system is convenient, feasible as well as cost-effective. Above all it will considerably reduce precious transit time of goods between Bahrain and such far-off places as America and the Far East. The facilities are all here and all that is needed is someone to take the initiative of bringing the matter to the attention of the government," explained Al-Mulla's boss.

He also added that the system will also boost re-export business between Bahrain and neighbouring Gulf states as goods can be transported at minimum time.

According to Gurnani Bahrain's cargo business is "very small" compared to the volume of trade in Dubai. However, he said, that with the introduction of the "Sea-Air" system Bahrain can come closer if not match Dubai's cargo Trade.

Association

Gurnani also called for the formation of a "Freight Forwarding Association" in Bahrain considering the lack of any uniform set of rules including code of secrecy in the island.

"At present the business is such that the moment freight leaves your office to the port of departure everyone concerned including airlines, clearing agents and competitors come to know of it within days and sometimes even hours. While one appreciates healthy competition this mode of operation is not good for the business. An association can help to instill confidence in the market," commented Gurnani.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's cargo industry experienced a boom period during most of the eighties primarily because of the exodus of a large number of expatriates workforce from the island precipitated by the Gulf conflict, recession and increasing unemployment in the country. Experts forecast continuing upward trend in the market during the nineties as business in general is poised to escalate after the end of the Gulf conflict and volume of trade picking up again.

According to Gurnani, a number of "cowboy companies" sprung up overnight to capitalise on the boom period of the eighties. People with little or no knowledge of the cargo trade opened up shop. As one can never compromise on the high quality of services offered by reputable companies, most of the new enterprises usually operating from a small room with one or two staff, went bust.

Manama to launch anti-cancer campaign

A MAJOR educational campaign is to be launched in Bahrain to warn residents against risk factors associated with modern lifestyle leading to cancer, it was announced recently.

Dr Jaffar Al Bareeq, president of Bahrain Cancer Society (BCS), revealed that the organisation will introduce a vigorous programme involving the media, promotional leaflets and seminars to educate the public about the potential dangers of contracting cancer associated with the use of chemical fertilisers, food preservatives and ecological deterioration.

Leading board members of the society in an audience with Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the BDF, Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, Dr Bareeq said that every effort will be made to accelerate the campaign to highlight preventive measures in combating cancer, the second killer among the world after traffic accidents.

The president of BCS, which was established last year, also added that the Bahrain Centre for Studies and Research is willing to support the society's campaign by providing necessary information on the dreaded disease.

Dr Bareeq told the Arab Times last year that the Bahrain Cancer Society's formation was possible because of the progressive medical climate in the country. He stressed that Bahrain boasts of medical services, facilities and personnel as good as any developing country in the world.

Adviser returns

KUWAIT, Feb 27, (Kuna): Adviser at Diwan of HH the Amir Abdul Aziz Hussein returned home last night after attending the second session of the Inter-governmental committee on the International Decade for Cultural Development held on Feb 5 in Paris.

After the meeting, Abdul Aziz went to Egypt to attend the meeting of the preliminary committee for the revival of Alexandria Library which was held in Aswan.

Radio & TV returns

RETURNS on television and radio transmission amounted to \$498,000 in the fiscal year 1988/1989, according to the director of International Accounts Department at the Ministry of Communications, Mariam Al Asfour.

The official said that the Ministry of Information is the only authority that uses and benefits from these services and added that transmission to foreign countries are \$901 for the first ten minutes and \$31 for each additional minute. Charges for GCC states are \$355 for the first ten minutes and \$20 for each additional minute. The Ministry of Communications had reduced these charges for some Arab countries such as Tunisia and Yemen, the official said.

She added that Kuwait is contributing to some Arab and international telecommunications organisations like Arabsat of which Kuwait's capital is \$238 million and Immarsat's capital is \$1,651m. Immarsat has given a return of 15 per cent on its capital every year.



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JAWHAR LIT

319 new Kuwaiti teachers appointed

School field visits begin

THE assistant undersecretary for public education affairs, Suad Al Rifai has said that the ministry appointed 275 females and 44 males as Kuwaiti teachers. These appointees are graduates from the faculties of education, arts and sciences of Kuwait University and the faculty of basic education of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

She added that the ministry will interview 718 candidates for teachers posts during the next scholastic year. Interviews

will be conducted by five committees who will be empowered to oversee the appointments for posts in English, Arabic, French, sports, computers, maths, sciences and practical studies (telectricity, decoration, electronics, mechanics and arts). She added that since December of last year, the ministry has begun to receive applications of candidates for teaching posts.

Last week, the officials began field visits to schools at Jahra and Ahmadi educational areas which are aimed at fol-

lowing up results of the examinations of the first session. Educational issues at the schools visited are going on in accordance with the educational plans of the ministry, the official said.

Follow up

Meanwhile, the director of Jahra educational area, Sulaiman Al Kouh said that the school has reduced the number of pupils in each classroom after building more classroom and opening new schools

in the area to reduce pressure.

He disclosed that Kuwaiti teachers have now begun to accept the trend to work in schools of Jahra area. He also said that some headmasters in these schools refuse to transfer to other schools, even though these schools are closer to their homes.

The Jahra area has submitted its demands and requirements for teachers and administrative staff for the next scholastic year to the ministry, the official said.

Belgian prince to arrive March 10

THE Belgian heir to the throne HRH Prince Albert will visit Kuwait on the 10th of March, accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Trade, Robert Urbain, and a delegation of Belgian bankers and major businessmen.

During this two day visit Prince Albert and Minister Urbain will have extensive contacts with the Kuwaiti government and financial institutions. Official talks will review bilateral relations and collaboration in the field of investment.

The 30 member commercial delegation represents Belgian companies from various sectors including consultancy, construction and engineering, lighting, textiles, agriculture, etc.

Meanwhile, Belgian sources in Abu Dhabi said that Prince Albert will make a similar visit to UAE next Saturday during which he will hold talks with senior officials aimed at promoting and fostering bilateral co-operation in all domains.

The sources added that a bilateral agreement concerning air freight between the two countries will be signed in addition to a convocation of the joint economic committee that will discuss trade and commercial co-operation.

MPW book highlights achievements

KUWAIT, Feb 27, (Kuna): The Ministry of Public Works has recently released a book entitled 'Public Works in Four Decades' in commemoration of the country's 29th National Day anniversary.

Public Works Minister Abdel Rahman Ibrahim Al Houti said the book shed light on the ministry's achievements since.

It came to existence as a small department with limited capabilities till it became a key ministry entrusted with implementing the state's utilities. According to the book, the department was converted into a full ministry in the 1960s under Sheikh Salem Al Ali Al Salem Al Sabah, current head of the National Guard.

The book dedicated a full chapter for the achievements scored by the ministry in the 1980s, pointing to Bayan Palace, headquarters of the National Assembly, Justice Palace, the Grand Mosque, Amiri, the Military, Al Razi and Ibn Sina Hospital, the Entertainment City and others including the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs.

Houti hailed the moral and material support the ministry receives from His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah.

Fashion fair

KUWAIT, Feb 27, (Kuna): Some 106 international fashion companies and houses are to take part for the first time ever in Kuwait, in an exhibition for summer textiles which will be held tomorrow at the international fairgrounds in Mishrif area.

The exhibition, which will last till March 7th, will be inaugurated by Commerce and Industry Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs Abdullah Saqr Al Bin Ali.



Kuwaiti pilot killed in jet crash

A Kuwaiti air force pilot was killed Monday night when his jet fighter crashed in the desert. He was on a routine night mission, a Defence Ministry statement said yesterday.

The statement did not say what type of jet was involved in the crash, but said Lt. Rashid Mohammed al Mutairi was killed doing his "military duty." Picture shows the flag wrapped coffin of Mutairi at the funeral service held yesterday afternoon and (inset) the deceased officer.

Hussein's Gulf tour continues

Plan to stem Jewish flow reported

KUWAIT, Feb 27, (Agencies): King Hussein of Jordan and his accompanying delegation today left here for Bahrain and Qatar after a short working visit to Kuwait.

Hussein, who is on a Gulf tour, met yesterday with HH the Amir and discussed latest developments in the Arab arena topped by Soviet Jews influx to occupied Palestine in addition to preparing for an Arab summit.

He was seen off at the airport by HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister and other top government officials.

King Hussein will arrive in Abu Dhabi tomorrow.

Talks, during his visit to the UAE with President Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan will focus on latest developments in Arab arena, international changes and other domains of bilateral relations.

King Hussein is touring the Gulf on a trip aimed at aligning Arab ranks to counter the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, as his Egyptian allies suggested a plan to halt the flow.

Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told a Saudi Arabian weekly that the two-pronged plan calls for the following:

"1 - Seeking international guarantees to prevent Jewish emigrants from settling in

Israeli-held territories.

"2 - Setting up an international body to settle the Jews elsewhere so that the exodus of Soviet Jews does not take place at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people."

An advance copy of Ghali's statements to the weekly *Al Yamamah*, to be published tomorrow, was made available to the Associated Press in Riyadh.

Ghali's statements were the first indications of a developing Arab plan to confront the influx. The Palestine Liberation Organisation has called the influx "an act of war" by Israel against the Arabs.

The GCC have close ties with the United States, and Hussein is understood to be seeking their pressure on Washington to help ease the problem.

Washington's restrictions on Soviet Jewish immigration is held partially responsible for the influx into Israel.

Another Saudi paper, the daily *Ashraq Al Awasit*, meanwhile reported that a plan of action over the Soviet Jews issue was lined up at the summit Hussein hosted Saturday for his partners in the Arab Co-operation Council: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The paper, quoting informed Arab sources, said the plan will be carried by Mubarak to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev when the Egyptian leader visits Moscow on March 19. Mubarak's visit will be the first by an Egyptian leader to the Soviet Union in 18 years.

PLO leaders have also recently disclosed that they were in contact with Moscow, and that they sought a UN Security Council meeting on the issue where guarantees would be laid down to protect the territories they seek for a homeland.

Quest

Ashraq Al Awasit also referred to an Arab quest for an "international machinery" in which the United Nations would take part.

It said the plan would include the posting of UN observers to inspect the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to check that the Soviet Jews are not settling there.

Israel expects hundreds of thousands of Jews to leave the Soviet Union in light of Gorbachev's open-door policy.

Israel leaders anticipate a large number will be settled in the Israeli-occupied territories, which most proposals for Arab-Israeli peace designate as a Palestinian homeland.

King Hussein has been concerned that the influx could mean displacement of Palestinians who might flock to his country.

Retired teachers to be re-instated

By Qasem Nayef

ASSISTANT Undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs at the Ministry of Education, Abdul Aziz Hasan Al Jarallah said that a special decision was made by the ministry and the Civil Service Commission to seek the help of retired teachers.

He explained that the decision has not been implemented yet due to some technical clarifications with respect to the social security system. He added that discussions are currently being carried out with officials concerning difficulties which may prevent the implementation of the new decision.

Jarallah denied rumours that the ministry intends to establish a special teaching corps and said that this issue was not officially discussed at the ministry.

Bonus

With regards to bonuses for excellent services, its conditions and distribution, he pointed out that a special committee was formed upon a decision made by the minister with the participation of the five educational area directors. This committee takes over duties which include indicating excellent service bonuses for distinguished individuals at the ministry. The bonus is distributed among administrators, technicians, teachers, and supervisors working inside the ministry.

He indicated that the bonus is only distributed once every year and that the ministry selects the number of bonus receivers according to money allocated by the Ministry of Finance.

Scots to introduce university courses

A TEAM of academics from Scottish Universities arrives in Kuwait later this week as a part of a Middle Eastern tour to hold counselling sessions for the public.

The delegates from various universities are Prof. David Sharp (Glasgow); Dr. Jeffrey Stone (Aberdeen); Martin Davies (Stirling); Dr. Abdel Hadi Fawzi (Strathclyde); Mike Masterson (Dundee); Dr. Hillenbrand (Edinburgh); Dr. Forbes Cameron (SIFP) and Harry Ashmall (Morrison's Academy).

The representative of each university would introduce the international foundation

programme, a special course for young school leavers, telling them about the degree level studies in Scotland. He principal from an independent boarding school in Scotland will also be available to talk to parents wishing to send their children for school level education.

The idea is to provide educational information, first hand, to those interested in anything from schooling to doing PhDs.

Counselling sessions in the form of an exhibition will be held at the SAS Kuwait Hotel from March 3 to 5, daily from 4 to 8 pm. No entrance fee. All are welcome.

Plans for re-cycling factory underway

DEPUTY chairman of the Kuwait Organic Fertilisers Company Waleed Al Asfoor has said that wastes recycling factory proposed for construction in Kuwait is currently being contracted for designs.

He said that a number of government agencies would contribute to this project, including the Public Investment Authority and the Industrial Investment Company. The concept was mooted by Kuwait Municipality and the Public Investment Authority undertook the execution of the project, being a government agency representing the Finance Ministry.

He said that an economic and technical feasibility study was prepared for this project back in 1988 with the intention of usefully exploiting liquid and solid wastes discarded in different places in the country. The project is currently in the initial stages of prequalifying consultants to carry out the necessary studies. Asfoor added that the project would be executed as a turnkey project.

REQUIRED

1. An electrical/electronics engineer and technician for a reputed company for an industrial project.
2. Secretary, well-versed in English and Arabic. Candidates should possess transferable residence and their CV with photograph and contact number to P.O. Box 23751 Code No. 13088, Safat Kuwait.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Charity benefits

HEAD of the main Zakat committee at the Islamic Heritage Revival Society, Sheikh Abdul Jabbar Salem stressed that the project of assisting poor families in Kuwait will assist a total of 600 needy families, 3,125 orphans and widows.

The official explained that the assistance policy is established on the basis of giving individuals the opportunity to sponsor one deserving case and all assistance beneficiaries will be treated confidentially to preserve the honour of families.

Sheikh Salem said that the project aims at achieving unity among people in Kuwait without considering nationalities.

Fire at factory

A FIRE reportedly broke out at 1:00 am Monday at an Ammonia Factory owned by the Petrochemicals Company, which was brought under control by the fire fighting team of the company after an hour.

Investigations are in progress to determine the cause of the fire.

No toxins

DRUMS found floating in the regional waters of the UAE recently are not toxic, according to the assistant undersecretary for health and deputy chairman of UAE's Environment Protection Committee, Dr. Abdul Wahab Al Mihaideeb.

However, he commented that the contents could be termed as dangerous as they are used in the manufacture of paints. From a total of 2,100 barrels found, 1,200 barrels contained paint materials which the UAE has announced for the production of various paints. The UAE will continue to keep a watchful eye for any more of such barrels with a view of safeguarding the regional waters from these dangerous materials, he said.

Fana assembly

SANA'A, Feb 27, (Kuna): Deliberations of the 18th session of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (Fana) general assembly today began here under auspices of Premier Abdel Aziz Abdel Ghani of the Yemen Arab Republic.

Fana Chairman Farid Ayyar, the board chairman and Director-General of Kuwait News Agency Barges Al Barges, Yemeni Minister of Information and Culture, Hassan Al Liuzi and representatives of Fana members were present.

Health meetings

RIYADH, Feb 27, (Kuna): The Arab Gulf health ministers began their 15th session meetings here today chaired by Saudi Health Minister Faisal Al Haglan.

The two-day conference is attended by Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and international health organisations.

The participants will discuss a unified health policy for Gulf countries and plans for co-operation on medical and pharmaceutical issues.

Indian delegation

A DELEGATION of 4 manufacturer-exporters of woollen and acrylic products accompanied by an official of the Wool and Woollen Export Promotion Council will be visiting Kuwait on 2nd March, 1990 and will spend the 3rd, 4th and 5th of March 1990 here.

The manufacturer-exporters deal in all kinds of woollen and acrylic goods including knitwear, blankets, shawls, mufflers and yarn. The delegates will be staying at Kuwait Continental Hotel.

Interested importers may like to contact the delegates when they are here.

Car imports

THE Ministry of Commerce and Industry yesterday finalised interviewing 30 dealers and representatives of automobiles in the country who had already purchased cars before the issue of the ministerial decision on Feb 6 which banned the import of cars over two years old.

Disclosing this information, Rashid Abdullah Al Mijren, assistant undersecretary for commercial affairs at the ministry said that these dealers represented purchasers of about 500 cars which had piled up at American ports.



Festival in Jahra

The Council of Jahra Governorate held a festival on the occasion of the 29th National Day at Jahra Sports Club. The festival was attended by Jahra Governor Shaikh Ali Al Abdulla Al Salem, Ahmadi Governor Shaikh Ali Sabah Al Salem, members of the Jahra Governorate Council and several leading personalities. Picture shows children of Jahra Sports Club performing a karate show, (above) and the start of the camel race which were but two amongst the numerous activities held to mark the occasion.



KNPC seminar

Exchange of expertise in precision instruments

A SEMINAR of GCC precision instruments and oil refinery control systems was opened at Kuwait Regency Palace by Ahmad Al Mutairi, chairman and managing director of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC).

In his key-note address, Mutairi described the seminar as being one of the continuous joint activities co-ordinated among experts and specialists of oil refineries in the GCC states and added that the seminar aims at supporting and developing the exchange of expertise in different fields of oil industries.

He said: "Precision instruments play a vital role in oil refinery operations and enhances productivity and efficiency for outputs of its derivatives according to international specifications." The official commented that Kuwait is very well versed in the use of these precision instruments and automatic control systems at the refineries.

Papers

Speaking at the same seminar, the director of oil and gas department at the secretariat of the GCC, Anwar Abdullah said that oil ministers in the GCC states stressed on the importance of collective work and joint co-ordination to have a unified policy in all fields of oil refining. This is particularly reflected in the usage of the latest methods and systems as well as using state-of-the-art equipment to improve and develop production of oil and to protect the environment.

The first work session of the seminar discussed a work paper submitted by two specialists at KNPC

about the development of the precision instruments used in oil refineries. Bador Koushal from KNPC also submitted a research paper about the control system at the oil refinery. Hussain Al Areebi and David Cots from Bahrain Oil Company submitted a paper about advanced control instrumentation at oil refineries.

A number of work papers were also discussed during the second and third sessions submitted by specialists from Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Jeddah Oil Company, Abu Dhabi Oil Company and KNPC that focused on different aspects of the topic of the seminar.

Meanwhile, the head of the organisational committee of the seminar, Khaled Behbahani said that one of the most important aims of KNPC is to use computers in all activities of oil refineries by linking operations with administration in one network. The computer has been used in different purposes like administration and accounting at the company for the last 15 years, but it has been used in operational purposes for the last five years only, he said. The computer was first used at the modernised Ahmadi Oil Refinery. Linking the administration with computers is due to be completed after five to seven years.

Behbahani pointed out that the project to modernise gas production at Ahmadi refinery will cost about KD25 million and that the project is expected to be carried out within next two years. He added that 70 per cent of the operational staff of KNPC are Kuwaiti nationals, though only 50 per cent of maintenance and designing staff are nationals.

GCC tripartite committee to meet in Oman

By Yousef Alawneh

THE GCC tripartite committee formed to study world developments, will hold its second meeting in Oman on March 6. The committee comprises Kuwait Minister of Finance, Jassem Al Khorafi, Bahraini Information Minister, Tariq Al Moayyed and Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs and head of the committee, Yousef Bin Alawi.

The committee was formed by the 10th GCC summit held in Muscat last year to study various developments in the world and their influence on the GCC states. The committee held its first meeting in Muscat last month and formed a number of sub-committees with the aim to study the world developments from various aspects. These sub-committees are expected to have completed their studies and the tripartite committee will review them in its meeting.

Informed sources said that the studies carried by the sub-committee covered several important issues including the new formula of the

international detente after the Gorbachev-Bush Malta summit, the first developments taking place in East Europe and the Soviet Union, the European economic unity of 1992 and the prospects of establishing more economic alliances. The committees were assisted by experts and consultants in their studies. After the tripartite committee completes discussions of the studies, it will be submitted to the current chairman of the GCC Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

In a related development, the GCC ministerial council, consisting of the foreign ministers of the six member countries, will hold a meeting next month at the premises of the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh. The meeting will be chaired by Bin Alawi. This will be the first meeting of the ministerial council after the 10th GCC summit held in Muscat last December. Discussions will centre on bilateral relations among the member states, the Palestinian and Lebanese crises, Soviet Jews immigration and prospects of pushing forward peace between Iraq and Iran.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WE JUDGE ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done — Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Arab unity eludes Dream fails to materialise

AMMAN, Jordan, (AP): The grand dream of Arab unity has again failed to materialise despite desperate appeals for joint action to halt Lebanon's bloody civil war and to show strength in the face of a revitalised Israel.

"The world will not deal with us positively unless this Arab unity is achieved," King Hussein of Jordan warned a four-nation Arab Cooperation Council summit over the weekend.

Yet the decade-long rivalry between Iraq and Syria has become an obstruction for Hussein and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, crippling one of the most promising efforts in years to overcome Arab divisions.

The two kings have long tried in vain to mediate a reconciliation between Presidents Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Hafez Assad of Syria.

Rivalry

That rivalry, one of the bitterest and most intractable rifts in the Arab world, has contributed to flare-ups in Lebanon's civil war, to a Gulf war peace stalemate that ties down the Arabs' strongest army and to strategic weakness in the face of Israel.

The leaders of Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen ended their weekend summit without the progress toward broader unity that Arab analysts throughout the region had speculated were at hand.

Amid recent signs that Assad was mending fences and moving radical Syria back into the Arab mainstream, there was widespread Arab press speculation that the summit could lay the groundwork for an imminent reconciliation between Syria and Iraq, as well as ending Assad's 7-year-old feud with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The summit leaders reasserted their own alliance, but showed no practical signs of overcoming the Iraqi-Syrian rift or settling the rivalry between Damascus and the PLO for control of the Palestinian cause.

Hussein has grown increasingly worried about right-wing Israeli calls to make his kingdom a substitute state for Palestinians. His search for Arab support has intensified with fears that mass Soviet migration to Israel will lead to the expulsion of Palestinians into the kingdom and to the collapse of peace efforts.

Fahd seeks unity to help end Lebanon's nearly 15-year-old civil war, a task he spearheads for the Arab League.

He also would like a firm end to the nearby Iran-Iraq war halted by a 1988 United Nations-sponsored ceasefire. Syria has supported Persian Iran against Arab Iraq.

Arab leaders also have warned that Arabs must cooperate to take advantage of changes sweeping Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Otherwise, Hussein said Saturday, they could "become a prey that is mercilessly leached and discarded."

Rejected

But Saddam last week rejected a Jordanian Parliament appeal to set aside his differences with Assad. The Syrian government had hinted at a positive response.

Instead of forging a new military alliance as the Parliament suggested, Saddam accused Assad of helping kill Iraqis, Lebanese and Palestinians.

He laid down harsh conditions for a rapprochement, Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon and a public apology by Assad for "his positions which damaged the Arab nation." Assad is not expected to accede to either.

"There is no doubt that the differences... which exist between Iraq and Syria are spoiling the atmosphere of Arab relations," said Osama El Baz, Mubarak's chief political adviser, during a break in the summit talks.

He said Arabs need to "join hands and forget about these differences because they are minor ones compared to the threats we face from outside."

Former Jordanian foreign minister Taber Masri said if the Iraq-Syria rift is overcome, "then very important pressure will be brought on the Americans and Israelis."

"This should not indicate a military threat," he said, but a strong Arab bloc which could counter Israel's power.

The goal of uniting Arabs as a single political force with international muscle has dominated Middle Eastern thought since World War I.

Yet the Arabs remain scattered among a score of states which have fully united only for a few disastrous wars with Israel.

Even a regular Arab summit, which is supposed to be held every year, has not been held since 1982 because host Saudi Arabia insists on general Arab harmony first. There have only been emergency summits.

Rifts

Over the past year, Arabs bridged deep rifts between Libya and Egypt and Syria. They formed new economic blocs in North Africa and in the Arab heartland.

Masri predicted that Hussein, Fahd and other leaders "will try even harder" to reconcile Iraq and Syria despite the setback.

Even with Syria and Iraq divided, "we still can do something," said Masri, now head of the Jordanian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.

He said the Arabs could unite for a summit to make their voice heard on issues such as Soviet immigration to Israel.

"If that summit doesn't take place, we have to look for bilateral contacts with the Soviet Union, the United States" and other parties.

We really cannot let it continue as it is.

"Arab citizens are really frustrated with the lack of cooperation... especially at a time when we have so many dangers threatening."

He cited Israel's military operations against divided Arab states and regional conflicts over water as well as other issues.

But he said the Iraqi-Syrian weakness in Assad due in part to declining Soviet support and Iran's failure to defeat Iraq in the Gulf war.

He said that in Iraqi eyes, "Assad and Syria have lost a lot of support and consequently a lot of importance and influence... and so he should be squeezed."

Democratic movement

SIR: The musical version of Victor Hugo's epic novel, *Les Misérables*, is a melodrama inflamed with outrage from the tragic opening "Look down, look down" intoned by the prisoners in a dungeon to the "When tomorrow comes" sung at the finale by the revolutionaries of 19th century Paris.

Its political appeal matters more than its love stories. Many of its principal characters die in violence of grief, but the most unprincipled of them endure and thrive.

Novelist Hugo has set the story between good and evil — with good, ironically, represented by a runaway convict, and evil by a policeman.

This is the true picture of the political drama unfolding before our eyes — the good of our society, the humble nameless men and women, the usually poor, often illiterate, peevish, the ordinary people of our country who are at odds at one another and are cast as villains, whereas, the evil who spur the violence, of which the good people are the victims, and those "political leaders," who have littered our country with the dead and have blood on their hands are hailed as saviours.

The violence in our country is the outcome of intolerance, fanaticism, and dogma, preached by the political elements who have implanted the venomous message in the minds of simple, honest, and industrious masses.

The recent communal riots in Karachi and other various parts of the country are the natural outburst of pent-up hatred, patronised maliciously through vicious brain-washing of the people's minds with outlying hut messages of "violence," and "struggle for rights" with no-one, except a few, on the horizon to preach "struggle for the duties and responsibilities to their nation."

Hopelessness

In this situation of utter hopelessness, it is something inexpressible sad to witness that the humble, nameless men and women, and the poor, who have suffered so much from lack of basic necessities of life, shedding the blood of their own brethren in such a horrible manner that, even acts meant as atonement serve as provocations.

An ounce of common sense applied would prevent repetition of such vengeful acts. It is a mistake to treat evil, even the evil of racial disharmony, as if it is confined to single group. The racial disharmony has been a cause of deliberate massacre of racial and political minorities, and thus, it is an evil to which we are all vulnerable — as potential participants as well as potential victims.

We should learn our lesson from what has happened in the recent riots. If the majority of us continue to behave almost all the time in a typical human way, that is, unconcerned of any event till it affects us, then we may perhaps be well prepared for other similar horrors which may come.

Some of us should stand tall and just not be content with the role of the majority, which watches silently, unlike the deaf-mute, without any positive contribution. Those of us who would stand up to demonstrate affection and unity might be the ones who may suffer the most; but, human feeling and consolation that, when in times of need, and in the hour of trial, we look to each other and our role was better and effective, would certainly satisfy our own conscience.

An individual effort cannot alone bring the desired effect — then the question is: What is the ultimate solution of our mounting political, social, and economic problems?

The answer to this is two-fold — the development of an individual sense of responsibility and obligation towards the nation. His duties towards the country takes the first priority among any envisaged solution. To base one's life on his contributions to the society will be the first required act to tranquillise and diffuse the present state of tension. This is the root reform which is urgently needed, and will have immediate effect, even if two per cent of our population begins making just one honest effort.

The other major area, which needs basic reforms and surgical corrections, is the political and social apparatus.

Although, I am, personally, quite sceptical of perennial reforms of the political and social process — "If you purify the pond, the water lilies will die" — and quite aware of our political leadership's egregious blunders in the past and their present policies being a vague mix of contradictions, then also, the first logical step is the restoration of functioning and strong democratic institutions, which can only and only create the necessary infrastructure to achieve development and social justice, so as to work its way out of its historic vicious circle.

We have earlier repeatedly failed miserably in our efforts to establish true parliamentary democracy, not due to maladministration, but due to the colossal misjudgement on the part of our political leadership.

Due to their lack of insight and lust for power, the sole responsibility of three martial laws, including the last eleven-year rule, lies on the "champions of democracy," who, in the first logical step, to grab the power from an elected government, raised the slogan of accountability, and joined the military government at the first call, making a mockery of their long upheld democratic principles.

These self-appointed vicars of democracy are the ones who have back-stabbed the institution. The historical duty of the armed forces in a Third World country does include timely intervention, especially in a country like ours, where they are invited by the political leadership to do so. It is the utmost sin to shift the responsibility of democracy-less Pakistan on the armed forces. Their action was the culmination of plot against the elected representative government by the political leadership, who claim to be the "champions of orphans of democracy," which they have so ironically, illegitimately fathered.

"We reap what we sow" — the present limited democracy (which the opposition calls it) is the result of events in 1977, when they gave a tacit approval to military intervention and secured their life till the leader of the then elected representative government was judicially eliminated — not a single protest, not a single voice was raised — where were the frogs on that rainy night?

Lesson

Without learning a lesson from the tragic events of the past, our continued leadership in opposition is stubbornly repeating the same actions against the present government, the decade-and-a-half old tactics and old slogans; "not accepting the validity of the Parliament" is a hit slogan and tops the list of our political leaders' "democratic" demands.

Ironically, the role of constructive opposition does not suit the mode of our entire political leadership. The hard-shell opposition and the popular party in power have still to agree on programme of constructive dialogue aimed at eradication of social evils like poverty and corruption.

The present course of action is "confrontationist" and "bumpy," the road to change with not a single piece of legislation passed by the present Parliament or introduced by the government is a political hinderer of colossal magnitude and will not help in creating necessary grounds on which proper infrastructure to solve the problems of people may be constructed. This would mean lot of rhetoric but no achievements and, therefore, a logical conclusion can be drawn that without any achievements the populace will, through the ballot box, bring a peaceful change.

The political leadership in the country, governing and opposition, should co-operate with each other to bring about necessary changes for the welfare of the people. This is why people have elected them — not to indulge in political acrobatics and somersaults; long on slogans, short on deeds, the masses of Pakistan are at the receiving end. The idea of bi-partisan accommodation has to be properly adhered to. This may be difficult to swallow because to live in a tailor-made environment of "struggle," is easier than promulgating and implementing serious mandates and programmes for the benefit of the populace.

Lack of originality, insight, and corrupt back-door political habits with Members of Parliament becoming a saleable commodity and prized in an open political arena is the worst job against democracy, which is sponsored and patronised by the political leadership, in power and out-of-power.



The people of Pakistan need to know, how the political leadership of Pakistan serve the institutions of democracy by such detrimental acts. Is it not an attempt to nip in the bud the hard-won democratic struggle which masses have accomplished?

On technical and constitutional grounds, the present government mandate is far from achieved, but given the special circumstances in background the set-up of the government, it needs to be given some time.

The maturity of democratic institutions and continued watering of the tiny seed of democracy sown in Islamabad and four capitals of the provinces needs to be safeguarded. In a very short span of fifteen months, we have been able to curtail the role of the armed forces. The day has finally come where, for all practical purposes, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has been subordinated to the whims of the political government and GHQ and the man in the army-house in Rawalpindi has vowed his total non-interference with the on-going political process and relinquished any involvement in running the business of the government. This all should now be reciprocated by the politicians by showing competence to manage affairs of the government with honesty and straightforwardness. The buy and sale of the elected representatives is not a sign of political maturity, but represents the worst kind of insult which the elected can inflict on the trust bestowed upon by the electorate.

The politicians should manage the affairs of the country with the straightforwardness and professionalism comparable to the confidence and status conferred by the masses; utter disregard of the will of the electorate is the cause of most of the problems. The jumping of political loyalties is something which will not continue to strengthen democratic process but will weaken the experiment.

The people of Pakistan can understand the present accommodation with the power-brokers in Islamabad and can read it in the light of the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution and do not wish to stain the government with a guilt of compromise. But this formula should take into account some bettermen in the standards of living of the poor; it can only be compensated by an innovative approach to a non-classical solution when the present action of the government reflects its resolve to undo the previous wrongs and avoid creation of destabilising factors due to which circumstances were created in the past where intervention of armed forces took place.

Transition

The nation is passing through a critical era of transition. Let us all unite and offer the world an example of peaceful transition — we have to show that it is possible for a nation to emerge from ignominy and destruction, even against a background of tremendous limitations and enormous obstacles, without serious setbacks, without violence, and with strict adherence to law.

To cement social order founded upon ethical bases of justice, peace and liberty, and the passage from savage state to state of right, where there are no reprisals, where there is common sense and honest election, we have to envisage a transition without endangering our newly found limited liberty, a way of bringing about socio-economic changes which satisfy popular demands, and a fairer distribution of wealth and improvement in material and spiritual conditions of life.

In a country like ours, where anarchy has prevailed, historically such countries have submitted only to despotism. This results in traditional power which has on its side, the force of habit which relies upon public opinion and is not on the outlook for the traitor gradually passing into naked power, which is usually the military power, and which may take the form of internal tyranny.

To avoid traditional power passing into naked power, we must seek first to secure the government, even the limited traditional democratic experience once. Only when the government becomes habitual can we hope successfully to make it democratic.

The present government faces two tasks — first is to secure acquiescence from the governed; second, take account of not only its own interest but also the interest of those over whom it has power. If any of these conditions is satisfied, the other would not arise. If neither is solved, there will be commotion.

There are essential limitations even to a full-functioning democracy, which arise mainly from two sources — the need of decision on the part of the government and other, many actions taken by the government involve both factors, owing to these two external limitations. Therefore, the serious matters should be entrusted by the electorate to the government.

Democracy is successful as far as the government is obliged to respond to the needs and desires of the electorate and to the government with the necessary mandate to govern.

The problem arises when the electorate cannot get rid of a government by constitutional means. A revolutionary situation is created, fear of the government in office that the new elections would produce a majority, which would not work in the interest of people, tantamount to premeditated strangulation of a democracy, and this induces them to act without restraint and thus, are caught in the vicious circle of blatant and naked assault on democratic institutions (the events of 1977). This creates a way for the intervention of the armed forces and exercises of naked power.

The moment the "government" should realise that they are opposed by a majority of the nation, they should instead of relying on force and thwarting a majority with impunity, try their utmost to prevent the issues from becoming so acute as to lead to civil commotion. If this becomes a habit in the society there is probably no other known form of government preferable than democracy.

The democracy is a form of government which demands a readiness of compromise. The beaten party, and the majority should act with restraint. Neither of them should press advantage to the point that it provokes a revolt. This requires extensive practice, respect for the law, creating chaos and state of fear in a democracy would give rise, always, to a dictator, as people submit to him when found.

Democracy in today's state, has certain disadvantages. It has diminished the importance of representatives, and increased that of the leader. Owing to communication advances, the followers can exert pressure on leaders, and leaders reciprocally can exert influence on followers. The dubious propagandists

devices, formerly confined to election times, are now employed continually. We are facing in our country, the revival of historical phenomenon of "City State" with its methods of propaganda, again become available.

In this situation, "government" is threatened by two dangers: dissidents and external threats. Government is expected to avert them, and naturally, the question immediately arises — how much freedom of propaganda will produce the greatest degree of stability both against internal and external threats?

The answer is dependent on the type of the government, and the circumstances of the time. If the government is recent and the economic circumstances of the population are desperate, freedom is almost sure to bring further revolution. But freedom can be guided and defined (not by the draconian measures of press ordinance or censorship). There can be no good reason for the state to interfere with the opinions which do not involve danger to the circumstances of the state. The state should not adopt the role of the guardian-of-the-truth — this is a confession of weakness, and factor which destabilises a government.

The other danger which a government faces is "exercise of power". Power over human beings may be classified by the manner of influencing individuals. An individual is influenced by:

(a) Direct physical power over his body; (b) rewards and punishment; and (c) influence on opinions. The army exercises direct physical power over the body, corporate entities use reward and penalties as incentives and deterrents, political parties aim at influencing opinion.

A democratic government is distinguished by the kind of power it exercises, therefore, has only one power to exercise over people, that is, influencing opinions. It should not rule with the power of law, as ultimate power of law is the coercive power of the state but aimed at making governed sentiments in favour of law — the law is powerless when not supported by popular sentiments, and to strengthen the institutional "democracy", the degree of feeling in favour of the law is the most important factor.

Peaceful transition, the abolition of any form of violence guaranteed by the respect of law, create ideal conditions for the transformation of our society into an exemplary democratic society.

The basic demands of any democratic society are: (a) Independent judicial authority to settle disputes; (b) Fairness in the law; (c) Unshakeable respect for human rights; and (d) Individual liberty.

The colossal task of government is to strengthen this transition process, through which we are living, and to overcome the difficulties of transition which are numerous, like, unsatisfied popular demands, incompatible cultural habits, different languages, provincialism, and painful memories of past injustice of forty years.

The government politicians should realise the tremendous problems inherited by our society if we have to forge our destiny with our own hands only through non-violence, peaceful co-existence, and mutual respect, we would get back our freedom of thinking and our dignity.

This is a gigantic task ahead of us, which cannot be accomplished in one day. The fabric of poverty is still looming in our country, and there is not much chance for democracy to survive if miserable living standards continue to be forced downwards. The alternatives are new military-backed power, more economic stagnation, more misery. It will be years of day-to-day charges, some of them insupportable, other radical, in order to bring about the transformation which we are seeking.

Our nation, in choosing "democracy", has not only opted for "freedom" and "respect of law", but also accepted the most extreme form of independence as well. This is because no other type of government receives less support from Western democracies than those regimes that try to live up to the ideals of freedom and pluralism.

The ordinary people, by rejecting atrocious authoritarian intrigues, have opted for an uphill path with eyes fixed on a common destiny of reconciliation and support of democratic system. The ordinary people opted for democracy in an attempt to escape from the nightmare of summary justice, indiscriminate repression, and the proliferation of torture. They decided to support the system, which intuitively and instinctively, would be able to defend their right and oppress them least. The tasks ahead of the nation are to organise grassroots support of democratic system, the strengthening of civil society, the modernisation of the means of production, and the revaluation of science and technology within the framework of democracy.

Overcome

The country has to overcome this tragic cyclical decay of instability, insurrection, and authoritarianism, by change in thinking and attitude of every citizen, a change from passive role in democracy to active role of defending the democratic system.

The collective responsibility of our politicians is to shun the old forms of political activity, initiate closer dialogue with people, to listen and learn from the ideas of the others. Politics can no longer be something that takes place behind closed doors. Regular, streamlined dialogues could find remedies and prevent harmful accusations, and it would lead us to a better understanding of each other's perspectives and problems.

If authoritarian system was characterised as closed and obscure, the democratic system must be seen as transparent, that is, in Russian "glasnost". Economic, social, and political developments are the three pillars of democratic system and contemporary politicians should search for satisfactory answers to the vital necessities of food, housing, education and health. Without building a system of economic growth and creating imaginative ways of participation and achievements of social dignity, it is unrealistic and optimistic to assume that, decline of authoritarian regime will necessarily mean the democracy will survive.

Politicians have to advance boldly towards consolidating the democratic system and surpass the goals already achieved, and make constant, uninterrupted programmes toward greater ones.

There is no more time to play with fire. We can make this experiment of democracy a great success. The opposition should not lament, if in '90s, "the battle of democracy is, once again, won by the people of Pakistan by themselves without their participation."

Iqbal Latif, Kuwait.

Thatcher: odd one out

LONDON, (Reuters): It was vintage, bellicose Thatcher. "They hide behind my skirt," she said scornfully of fellow leaders who accuse her of being out of step on world issues.

"Isolated and right," she added forcefully, speaking of herself in a weekend interview.

For all the British leader's fighting talk, Margaret Thatcher's stance on various foreign policy issues has combined with domestic problems to present her ruling Conservative Party with a deepening political crisis.

An opinion poll published on Sunday put the Conservatives 17 points behind the opposition Labour Party, the widest margin since Thatcher came to power 11 years ago.

On Monday, the staunchly pro-Conservative Daily Telegraph lamented: "It is no use pretending that the government's present position is anything other than depressing." Even party chairman Kenneth Baker agreed the situation was "very serious."

Poll

The poll, which gave Labour a 51 per cent share of the vote to 34 for the Conservatives, found general dissatisfaction with the performance of both the government and Thatcher herself.

It identified a deeply unpopular "poll tax" on all adults, which replaces local property levies, as the major issue of concern in Britain today.

But party members also concede that morale has been sapped by disputes over Europe and Hong Kong, criticism of Thatcher's grudging response to the prospect of German unification and her abrasive and unflinching defiance of world opinion on the question of sanctions against South Africa.

Thatcher is unrepentant. "I am accused of being out of step and isolated," she told reporters on Friday. "It is pretty cosy isolation, pretty crowded, judging by the numbers of foreign statesmen who are talking to us."

She went further in an interview with the Sunday Times, charging that other political leaders agreed privately with what she was saying publicly.

"Of course they do. They frequently hide behind my skirt," she said, adding: "We dared to say the realities and talk the sense which other people are fearful of saying."

Britain acted in defiance of its European partners on Friday by unilaterally lifting a ban on new investment in South Africa to reward President F.W. de Klerk for freeing black leader Nelson Mandela, and lifting a ban on the African National Congress.

Isolation

Isolation is a word Thatcher cannot escape. At one time she has said: "I am isolated."

Attacking her response to German unity, the pro-government Sunday Times declared: "Britain is once again heading for international isolation — the result of the cashed-out diplomacy Margaret Thatcher has deployed as the cold war draws to an end."

It added that Thatcher was becoming "an increasingly irrelevant voice that nobody bothers to listen to."

Thatcher's supporters say she articulates the concerns of core Conservative supporters, particularly in a country which has fought two wars with Germany this century and where a united Germany would be seen by many as a powerful and worthy concentration of economic and political power.

Labour politician Eric Heffer, citing his own wartime experience, said: "We want unification, but we want certain safeguards."

Sir Russell Johnson, foreign affairs spokesman for the minority Liberal Democrats, added: "There are many fears about reunification."

William Cash, chairman of a Conservative European Affairs Committee, called Thatcher's approach "perfectly balanced and sensible." He said accusations she was "negative, narrow and nationalistic" were "neither true, fair nor balance."

But former prime minister Edward Heath, ousted by Thatcher as Conservative leader in 1975, said her refusal to co-operate with European partners doing better economically than Britain was "perverse, unnecessary and very costly."

Damage

Labour Party foreign affairs spokesman Gerald Kaufman told a weekend meeting: "The isolation of Mrs Thatcher on every key international issue is inflicting serious damage on Britain."

"She loses goodwill for Britain wherever she goes. She has become so isolated she makes Greta Garbo seem like a crowd lover," he added referring to the exclusive film star.

Compounding Thatcher's problems is the worsening performance of the British economy, with inflation currently running at an annual rate of nearly eight per cent and interest rates and 15 per cent, painfully high for the two in three families who have borrowed money to buy their own homes.

She has until June, 1992 to call a general election. But there are already widespread fears among Conservative Members of Parliament that there may not be enough time to turn the economy around and they may lose their seats.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock would need the biggest political swing in 50 years to overturn the government's 100-seat majority in the 650-member House of Commons.

But Labour has been ahead in the polls for the past year, the latest 17-point opinion poll lead translated into votes would give them a 120-seat majority in Parliament and more than one minister has whispered privately in recent days: "We could just lose."

Quote me

"Malcolm was one of the great magazine publishers, who single-handedly created a major, powerful magazine. His outstanding personal quality, among many, was his 12 unshakable loyalty to his friends. He had a flamboyance and joy of life that one could only envy. He was generous to a fault." — media magnate Rupert Murdoch paying tribute to Malcolm Forbes

"This stand of Inkatha has contributed in no small measure to making it difficult for the (white) regime to implement successful measures designed to perpetuate minority rule." — Mandela praising Buthe

"We note with appreciation that there are certain areas where policemen are acting with restraint and fulfilling the role of protecting all our people. But we view with horror the moral decay within certain sections of the security establishment." — Nelson Mandela on state of emergency in South Africa

"The old leaders realise that getting rid of Li Peng would please Western nations, but fear it might start domestic turmoil. It would be like admitting they were wrong." — a Chinese Communist Party member

"Universal family planning is a bargain compared to the costs of delaying world population stabilisation — great environmental damage, stagnant Third World economies, political instability and untold amounts of human suffering." — a family planning organisation on population explosion

JAPANESE

Israel about to accept the inevitable — talk to Palestinians

Israel's N-programme

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Feb 27, (AP): In a rare public reference to Israel's nuclear weapons programme, Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres yesterday cited the Dimona nuclear reactor in the southern Negev desert as one of Israel's strategic assets.

Israeli leaders are usually tight-lipped about Israel's nuclear capabilities, saying only that Israel will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

Journalist still held

NAIROBI, Feb 27, (UPI): A British journalist detained without charge by military authorities in Khartoum had by today spent a week under interrogation in a Sudanese jail. No explanation has been given for the continued detention of Julian Ozmam, Nairobi-based correspondent for the Financial Times of London, a spokesman for the British high commission in Kenya said.

All Laaridh freed

TUNIS, Feb 27, (Reuters): Tunisian authorities released the spokesman of the country's Islamic movement today after 24 hours in detention for questioning his colleagues said. All Laaridh of the unrecognised Nahdha (renaissance) Movement was picked up at home early yesterday, taken to the Interior Ministry and set free early today, they said.

Envoy denies

AMMAN, Feb 27, (Reuters): The West German ambassador to Amman today denied he told a local newspaper he believed Soviet Jews flooding to Israel would force Palestinians to leave the occupied territories and go to Jordan. The Arabic-language daily Sawt Al Shabab today quoted Herwig Barthelemy as saying Israel and the occupied territories could not accommodate all the newcomers and that tension would eventually rise between the Soviet Jews and Palestinians.

Azeris march

NICOSIA, Feb 27, (Reuters): Iran said 5,000 Soviet Muslims demonstrated on their side of the Araks border river on Sunday in the biggest such rally since Soviet troops quashed unrest in Azerbaijan last month. Iranian television said yesterday the demonstration was held in the Nakhichevan section of Azerbaijan near the Iranian border town of Poldesh.

Der Spiegel banned

NICOSIA, Feb 27, (Reuters): Iran has banned the February 19 issue of the West German magazine Der Spiegel for its "hostile" attitude to the death order against British author Salman Rushdie, the Iranian news agency Arna reported today. It said the magazine had insulted "the sanctities of the Iranian people" and "the late Ayatollah Khomeini" who ordered Rushdie's killing a year ago after alleged blasphemy.

Mystery calf

BEIRUT, Feb 27, (Kuna): A mystery calf with two bodies and one head was given birth in a rural area recently, but the owner killed it fearing misfortune. A picture of the strange calf was published in the papers today carried by the owner, from the Wadi Khalid area in north of the country.

S. Lebanon clash

RASHAYA, Lebanon, Feb 27, (Reuters): Pro-Israeli militiamen clashed with Palestinians in south Lebanon today and the commandos said they killed or wounded four fighters.

Security sources said a tank-led force of South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen pushed two km (one mile) outside Israel's self-declared security zone and clashed with Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) commandos.

Smugglers held

NICOSIA, Feb 27, (AP): Iranian security forces arrested 110 alleged drug smugglers and 850 addicts and seized 1,030 kilograms (2,266 pounds) of narcotics in a 48-hour nationwide sweep, Tehran television reported.

The operations are part of an intensified anti-narcotics crackdown that was launched in December 1989. Officials said on Sunday that the "third phase" of the crackdown was getting underway.

Emergency landing

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Feb 27, (AP): An Israeli Air Force serviceman suffered light injuries yesterday when his Cessna plane was forced to make an emergency landing in the occupied Gaza Strip, the military command said.

King Hussein holds talks with Bahrain Amir

BAHRAIN, Feb 27, (Agencies): King Hussein of Jordan discussed Arab unity with Bahrain's Amir Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa on the second leg of a Gulf tour today, the Gulf News Agency said.

The talks also covered the Palestinian uprising, Lebanon and Gulf issues, the agency said. It gave no further details.

King Hussein is expected to use the tour to discuss convening an Arab summit on the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and to seek financial aid.

UN Human Rights Commission accuses Iran of gross violations

GENEVA, Feb 27, (Agencies): The United Nations made public yesterday a largely inconclusive report on the human rights situation in Iran, based on the first ever visit by a special UN investigator to the country since it came under international scrutiny in 1984.

The 76-page report, compiled by Salvadoran jurist Reynaldo Galindo Pohl under a mandate from the UN Human Rights Commission, cites evidence of torture and other gross violations along with denials. He concedes that "in many cases" it had not been possible to conduct an in-depth examination during the week-

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (Reuters): Israel, under pressure from the United States, is poised to take a momentous decision to enter unprecedented peace talks with Palestinians, diplomats and analysts say.

"This is a crucial week, when months of painstaking negotiations will either come to fruition or dissolve in failure," said one Middle East diplomat. "We are cautiously optimistic."

US officials, involved in delicate negotiations to get Palestinians and Israelis around a bargaining table for the first time, and Israeli and Egyptian diplomats aware of the contacts agree.

Shamir must decide whether to accept a formula handed to his Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, last Friday by

US Secretary of State James Baker.

If he agrees, Arens and Baker would quickly convene a tripartite meeting with the foreign minister of Egypt which in turn would lead to talks in Cairo between Israeli and Palestinian delegates from the occupied territories.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said today he was sure Israel would support the latest US proposal.

"I believe the proposal will get the support of the majority (of the cabinet) ... the decision will be taken in the coming days, in a week or 10 days," Rabin told visiting US Jewish leaders.

Rabin, a key member of Israel's dovish Labour Party, said the opportunity to move towards peace should not be missed. "We cannot be obstacles to

moving ahead."

Baker's latest proposal attempts to address Israeli fears that it would be gradually drawn into a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which Israel believes is still bent on the destruction of the Jewish state.

The Labour Party, the junior partner in Shamir's national unity coalition, has threatened to bring down the government and set up its own coalition with the help of religious parties unless Shamir agrees to the talks.

On the other side, Shamir is under intense pressure from the right wing of his own Likud Party, rallied around rebellious ex-minister Ariel Sharon, not to make compromises they fear will eventually erode Israel's grip over the

occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"As far as Shamir is concerned, he's damned if he does and damned if he doesn't. But if he says 'no', his government may well fall and that could be the decisive factor for him," said one source familiar with the negotiations.

The source said that by agreeing to go ahead, Shamir could preserve his crucial ad hoc alliance with Rabin which might represent his best chance of holding on to power.

"Everything leads me to conclude that this is a fateful week. But we can be cautiously optimistic," said John Hannah, an analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Baker told Arens on Friday that the time for talking had run out and the

time for decisions had arrived, State Department officials said Arens had agreed with this.

The key decision may well be taken when Israel's top four ministers — Shamir, Arens, Labour leader Shimon Peres and Rabin — meet on Friday.

The current round of negotiations began last April when Shamir proposed holding Palestinian elections in the territories, where residents have conducted a 26-month-long uprising against Israeli rule that has cost over 800 lives.

Baker seized on the idea and has been working towards it ever since. The Cairo meeting, should it take place, would seek to negotiate the terms of such an election.

The latest US proposal contains the following elements, according to diplomatic sources.

● The Palestinian delegation would include one or two members deported by Israel from the territories, but not deportees expelled in the past two years, or for alleged terrorist offences.

● The delegation would include one or two residents of East Jerusalem who are registered to vote elsewhere in the West Bank, but they would be named as individuals and not specifically as representatives of East Jerusalem, which Israel annexed after the 1967 Middle East war.

● Egypt as host of the talks and not the PLO would announce the delegation.

Israel to reopen all held-area colleges

Arab students stage sit-ins

RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank, Feb 27, (Agencies): Under pressure from the United States and the European Economic Community, Israel announced yesterday it will reopen Arab community colleges ordered shut for most of the 26-month Palestinian uprising.

But the army kept a closure order of six Palestinian universities with an enrollment of more than 22,000 students.

Palestinian students protesting at Israel's two-year-old closure of their six universities staged sit-ins in the occupied West Bank today and one of the rallies ended in clashes with troops.

In Ramallah, 12 km (eight miles) north of occupied Jerusalem, troops ordered high school students to leave the headquarters of the town's school administration after a two-hour occupation.

As the students spread through the centre of town, hundreds of youths threw stones at soldiers and cars bearing Israeli licence plates. Israeli troops fired back with tear gas and arrested some 60 Palestinian youths.

"I want universities and closed schools to be opened," said a 16-year-old girl who had joined hundreds of others in occupying the administration building.

"My brother should go to university next year," said the girl, who declined to give her name. "And I would go the year after."

Other students had occupied the Red Cross office in Ramallah and similar demonstrations were reported by Palestinians in East Jerusalem and Hebron.

The demonstrations were staged ahead of the automatic renewal of monthly closure orders on the six universities in the West Bank. Israel, saying the campuses were centres of unrest, closed them after the Palestinian uprising began in December 1987.

At a news conference in Jerusalem yesterday representatives of the 14,000 university students said they would enter the campuses as soon as the current closure order expired on Wednesday.

Attention also drawn to the universities by Israel's announcement that 14 community

colleges in the West Bank would be re-opened in stages, partially meeting Palestinian demands.

"I am optimistic the studies in the community colleges will go as they should," Brigadier General Shaikha Eriz, civil administrator for the West Bank, told army radio. "Concerning the universities, we'll wait and see."

The colleges were also closed at the beginning of the uprising. Elementary and secondary schools were reopened last summer after being closed during most of the revolt.

The two community colleges in the Gaza Strip have already been reopened but the lone university remains closed.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, Palestinians reported that a man suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities was killed on Monday after trial by a "people's court."

They said Ali Asad Nafarrah, 42, was hacked to death with knives and axes. Army radio said he was "killed in a fight."

His death brought the number of Palestinians killed by the army during the revolt, mostly for alleged collaboration, to 187.

At least 626 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli and 44 Jews have died.

Official military sources said soldiers in Nablus sealed the house that had been used by the

leader of the Palestinian group the Red Eagles, who was killed by the army three months ago.

Palestinian sources said notice had been given that four other houses used by members of the Red Eagles would be sealed.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinians reported seven people were shot and wounded today, following clashes yesterday in which UN officials reported 84 Arabs suffered gunshot wounds.

Israeli troops, some backed by a helicopter firing tear gas canisters, yesterday shot and wounded at least 90 Palestinians in some of the most violent clashes in months, doctors said.

Hospitals and clinics said at least 69 of those wounded were from Rafah refugee camp, a flashpoint of unrest in the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising.

At least 22 were wounded in other unrest in Gaza including several children and a man of 60 from Gaza City who was partly paralysed when shot in the head with rubber-coated bullet.

The casualties brought to at least 115 the number of people wounded by gunfire in the Gaza Strip in two days.

An army spokesman said troops wounded 15 protesters and declared Rafah a closed military zone.

Israel must back Hussein, says Rabin

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 27, (AP): Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said today that Israel must back the government of King Hussein against Arab extremists, warning that collapse of the monarchy would deliver Jordan into the hands of the PLO or Muslim fundamentalists.

Rabin criticised Israeli hardliners who back up their argument against a Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip by saying that Jordan with its Palestinian majority is the actual Palestinian state.

There is too much talk in Israel about a substitute Palestinian state in Jordan which is total nonsense," Rabin told members of the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organisations.

"Israel has to be interested in maintaining King Hussein's regime because any substitute will be a much worse option from Israel's point of view," Rabin said.

The two other alternatives are either the PLO or the Islamic fundamentalists. I believe the greater danger are the Islamic fundamentalists, and (their takeover) seems more possible in case of the collapse of this regime."

Rabin noted that Muslim fundamentalists scored a major victory in Jordanian elections last year, gaining 40 per cent of the seats in Parliament.



Israeli flag burned

Egyptian lawyers protested on Monday against Soviet Jews settling in the Israeli-occupied territories by trampling and then burning an improvised Israeli flag. Dozens of lawyers chanted slogans condemning the influx of settlers and calling for the expulsion of Israeli diplomats from Egypt, the only Arab state to have made peace with Israel, at a demonstration in a conference room at Cairo's supreme court.

By police count, the inconclusive showdown for mastery of the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) Christian enclave has killed 694 people and wounded 1,925 since it broke out on Jan 30.

The spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations, said civilians crowded the museum crossing as well as other gateways linking the Christian enclave with West Beirut, and east and north Lebanon following reports that a mediation committee has failed in its efforts to end the conflict.

Most of the evacuees were heading to Christian villages in south Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley and the northern Akkar plain, the spokesman said.

He said some of the Christian refugees were staying with Muslim friends in West Beirut and the few of them who can afford it were leaving for neighbouring Syria and the island

republic of Cyprus. According to police estimates, about 110,000 civilians of the Christian enclave's original population of 1 million have fled the enclave area since Jan 30, about 35,000 of them since the mediation committee called a fragile truce Feb 17.

The police spokesman said the flow of evacuees "sharply increased" after local radio stations said Monday the mediation committee was not achieving any progress in efforts to reopen roads linking the enclaved districts of East Beirut.

Geagan's Lebanese forces command, in a communiqué, accused Aoun of blocking the mediation and refusing to permit the reopening of more roads in East Beirut.

The militia's chief of staff, Foad Malak, said Aoun's command also has refused to "disengage the combatants, which we had demanded as a necessary step to consolidate the

ceasefire."

"The best way to control the fighters and prevent them from shooting at each other is by separating them and eliminating visual contact between their respective positions," Malek said in a radio interview.

"This way, they won't shoot at each other and the civilians won't be caught in the cross-fire," Malek told the pro-Geagan Voice of Lebanon Christian radio station.

The mediation committee, grouping three independent Christian figures, said it will maintain its efforts "despite the obstacles we are facing." The short statements did not elaborate.

Christian sources close to the mediators said Aoun was rejecting the reopening of a vital road junction in the enclaved district of Sin El-Fil because it would facilitate defection of his soldiers.

Leaders differ over legacy of Khomeini

NICOSIA, Feb 27, (Reuters): Rifts in Iran's leadership, papered over since Ayatollah Khomeini's death, have now burst into the open and could have far reaching political implications.

At issue is a major theological question — how far should the teachings of the stern revolutionary who led Iran to a republic affect the country's future.

Technically, the debate centres on the powers of Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to overturn rulings by the late supreme leader, an emotive and important issue in Iran's religious system of government.

It has pitted parliamentary Speaker Hojatoleslam Mehdi Karubi, a hardline supporter of Khomeini's anti-capitalist views, against senior theological teacher Ayatollah Ahmad Azari Qomi, who stresses Khamenei's unlimited powers as Iran's current supreme Islamic leader.

Before the controversy erupted, the post-Khomeini leadership of Khamenei and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani seemed to have fairly solid backing across factional

Rebels capture heights

Overlooking Khost garrison

ISLAMABAD, Feb 27, (Reuters): Afghan rebels have captured a ridge overlooking the besieged Khost garrison in eastern Afghanistan which puts them in easy shooting distance of the airport, a Western diplomatic source said today.

"It is enough of a height to give them a clear shot at anything at the airport," he said.

For two years Afghan rebels have prevented the Kabul government resupplying Khost by road and fighting around the city close to the Pakistan border intensified last month.

Now they are in a strong position atop the Toora Ghara ridge to prevent the government from landing transport planes at the airport less than nine km (five miles) away, the source said.

Despite repeated counter-attacks in the past week and intense bombardment, the rebels remain on the ridge which rises to 1,578 metres (5,175 ft).

"If they can hold the heights it will be important because it will be hard to supply the city," he said.

Last week a spokesman for mujahadeen commander Jalaluddin Haqqani said his forces had shot down a government transport plane bringing soldiers and ammunition to Khost.

Since the failure of their assault on Jalalabad last year, the rebels based in Pakistan have spoken of Khost as the next best place to install a rebel government inside Afghanistan.

Bid to end hostage crisis

Iran, US in secret talks

LONDON, Feb 27, (Reuters): A Lebanese newspaper said today the United States and Iran had held secret talks in Geneva to look into the possibility of normalising relations and freeing hostages held in Lebanon.

The London-based newspaper Al Hayat quoted official, party and religious sources in Beirut as saying the talks had been positive though not final.

It did not say who was involved in the talks and it reported officials in Washington as denying any meetings with Tehran.

Al Hayat quoted party sources in Beirut as saying there appeared to be a coexistence among the hostage-takers in Lebanon and Iranian officials on the need to free the hostages.

It said Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, considered an advocate of improved relations with the West, had obtained the support of religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for his policy.

The US-Iranian talks in Geneva were being closely watched by Syria, Iran's Middle Eastern ally and main power broker in Lebanon, Al Hayat said.

'I never thought they'll repay me'

MANAGUA, Feb 27, (AP): Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, publisher of the nation's opposition newspaper, led a 14-party coalition to victory over Sandinista rule despite political inexperience and a broken knee.

"The Nicaraguan people have shown that they want to live in democracy, in peace and in a freedom," Mrs. Chamorro told more than 1,000 cheering supporters at her election headquarters yesterday.

"I am very happy," she said. "The people wanted a change."

Her victory came over the same revolutionary party she supported more than a decade ago, then abruptly abandoned because she believed it had betrayed democratic principles.

As a girl, Violeta Barrios wanted to learn to type and be a secretary when she grew up. She married Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, who became one of the Nicaragua's revolutionary heroes and was assassinated.

Mrs. Chamorro's late husband, whose father started what is today Nicaragua's sole opposition newspaper, La Prensa, was shot down in January 1978.

The slaying, believed to have been ordered by dictator Anastasio Somoza, ignited the popular revolt that brought the Sandinistas to power in July 1979.

Bitter memories

Mrs. Chamorro, who still publishes La Prensa, became a member of the junta that took over from Somoza. She quit after nine months.

She has bitter memories of what she considers the Sandinistas' betrayal of her husband's democratic goals and her own faith in the revolution.

"I'm not praising Somoza's government; it was horrible, but the threats that I've had from the Sandinistas — I never thought they would repay me in that way," she said.

As a gray-haired widow of 60, Mrs. Chamorro found herself the political symbol at the centre of an electoral storm.

Dona Violeta, as she is called even by President Daniel Ortega, said in an earlier interview, "I am nothing."

"But in this life, you can learn anything," she said.

An elegant woman with graceful manners, Mrs. Chamorro's two main strengths were her martyred husband and her lack of alignment with any one political party.

That was enough to qualify her as a candidate for the disparate and fractious United National Opposition, a coalition of 14 parties known as UNO.

Her pain as a widow, strong religious convictions and loyalty to Chamorro's memory — she pays weekly visits to his grave to leave fresh flowers — made her a symbol of dissatisfaction with the Sandinistas. But there have been many drawbacks.

Even after months of campaigning, she stumbled over speeches and made baffling blunders. Last year, during a trip to Europe, she was asked about UNO's government programme.

"It's a secret," she replied.

The Sandinistas have tried to paint Mrs. Chamorro as empty-headed. A pro-government newspaper runs a daily column where nearly every joke portrays her as slow-witted.

Peaspe responding to this, Mrs. Chamorro told a rally early in the campaign, "I am not a dummy."

One of her top advisers is her eldest son, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, who returned from exile in Miami, where he had been a director of the US-backed Contra rebels who tried to topple Ortega's government by force.

The son feared his mother would be manipulated by vice presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy and top aide Alfredo Cesar, two strong-willed politicians.

Mrs. Chamorro, the eldest daughter of a landowning family, was sent to US finishing schools to learn English. With her father's death in 1948, she returned to the family home in the southern town of Rivas and married Chamorro.



Chamorro shown arriving at her campaign headquarters early yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

It won't be so easy for UNO

Minefield of problems

MANAGUA, Feb 27, (AP):

Beating the Sandinista Front in general elections was a stunning triumph for the United National Opposition. Now the fragile coalition faces another monumental task.

Chamorro has to steer her country through a minefield of problems for which there is no chart nor guide.

"What happened here is without precedent," said a senior European diplomat. "No revolutionary leader who has come to power through the bullet has ever surrendered power through the ballot. The transition here will be anything but easy."

That may be an understatement. Chamorro inherits a country which is in economic ruin and an army which was raised to be fiercely loyal to Ortega's left-wing party. Her power base is so fragile it showed signs of splintering even during her election campaign.

UNO must engineer a smooth transition of government after 10-12 years of Sandinista rule and work out a durable peace with its foe.

"This is the first time in Nicaragua's history that the opposition wins and that there will be a peaceful change of government," president-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro said early yesterday.

President Daniel Ortega, whose term is to end with Mrs. Chamorro's inauguration April 25, said he would accept the Nicaraguan people's verdict.

Before then, Ortega and the Sandinista leadership are expected to try to extract concessions from UNO in exchange for vacating the government premises.

The Sandinista Front remains the single most powerful political party and a force at the National Assembly.

Without its co-operation, Mrs. Chamorro may find herself hindered in trying to make substantive moves to fight economic problems such as rampant inflation.

But she will not have to deal directly with the politically savvy

Sandinistas.

In one of her most astute moves, Mrs. Chamorro surrounded herself with a shadow cabinet of eight strong, experienced advisers.

The cabinet will confront the Sandinistas on such vital issues as the leadership of the armed forces and peaceful relations with labour.

If it can create order in these two areas, Mrs. Chamorro's government will have some breathing space and time to establish itself.

That doesn't mean Ortega, a former guerrilla leader turned politician, will make it easy for UNO.

Ortega, his brother Humberto, the defence minister, and Interior Minister Tomas Borge said last year that the Sandinistas could imagine themselves handing over the government, but not total power. The statements were taken to mean that the Sandinistas envisioned maintaining control of the army and police.

With their strong influence on many labour unions, the Sandinistas could lead strikes to disrupt UNO's economic programme.

Sandinista leaders are aware they will not have to deal with the 14 parties and one native Indian organisation and constitute UNO, but with the members of the shadow cabinet.

Among the probable ministers is Alfredo Cesar, an ambitious, capable politician who already has his sights set on the 1996 elections.

It is Cesar, not Mrs. Chamorro, whom journalists flock to when they want the bottom line on UNO policy.

Cesar, who has never actually said whether he quit his membership in the directorate of the US-backed Contra rebels, has reportedly worked out a way to avoid one of the pitfalls in UNO's path to government — Sandinista control of the armed forces.

Under Cesar's plan, Humberto Ortega might be allowed to remain in charge of the armed forces, but only under a civilian defence minister. Cesar has hinted at this arrangement publicly and a close aide confirmed it privately to the Associated Press.

Chamorro, Ortega meet in gesture of compromise

'There are neither winners nor losers'

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Feb 27, (Agencies): Defeated President Daniel Ortega met his victorious rival, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, in a gesture of national reconciliation.

"There are neither winners nor losers here, Daniel," said Mrs. Chamorro, hugging Ortega in her usual familiar style during yesterday's meeting.

The visit was another statesmanlike gesture from the revolutionary leader, who found himself cheered at length by a crowd of Chamorro supporters outside her house.

Meanwhile, however, a quiet post-election holiday was marred by incidents involving party militants.

"We want to make sure there is a smooth transition of power," Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said.

Carter said yesterday that he and representatives of the United Nations and the Organisation of American States had agreed to stay and help both parties during the transition period.

Ortega's Sandinistas lost Sunday's elections after 10 years in power to Chamorro's 14-party coalition.

With 82 per cent of the vote counted, Chamorro was leading Ortega by 633,357 votes, or 55.2 per cent, to 468,040 votes, or 40.8 per cent.

The breakdown of 90 directly elected national assembly seats had not been announced, although it was certain that Ortega would get one of the special seats reserved for losing presidential candidates who gain more than 1 per cent of the vote. It was possible that none of the other eight candidates who ran would get a seat.

Ortega was certain to remain a key player in Nicaraguan politics as leader of what is still the largest single party in the nation against the UNO coalition, whose unity has always been a question mark.

One of the main points of the inter-party discussions was the role of the Sandinista army, closely identified with the party and now a strong, well-trained organisation following years of combat against the US-backed Contra rebels.

UNO wants to reduce military spending and abolish the draft, while the Sandinistas are opposed to a quick, drastic reduction.

In a country torn by civil war and partisan bitterness, the two made a show of public reconciliation yesterday when Ortega visited Chamorro at her home to congratulate her on her victory.

"Come here, my darling," Chamorro greeted Ortega. "I love you very much."

The two embraced and pledged to work toward national reconciliation.

But as the reality of defeat sank in, small groups of Sandinista sympathisers took to the streets in the capital to protest the UNO victory.

In the provincial capital of Leon, 50 miles (80 kilometres) northwest of Managua, Sandinista militants occupied the regional UNO headquarters. But Sandinista officials said they left after party officials pleaded for restraint, and no injuries were reported.

After the Managua clash Chamorro's campaign manager, Antonio Lacayo, went into the street.

"I have a message from Violeta, and it's that you should go home right now, and peacefully," he said.

All but a few of the more inebriated celebrants dispersed. One man was cut in the head during the clash, according to reporters on the scene.

For most international observers it was getaway day, and senators, congressmen and other dignitaries hustled for the airport.

At the Olaf Palme Convention Centre, saddened members of international pro-Sandinista groups gathered in front of video monitors to watch taped replays of the eloquent, pained and quietly emotional concession Ortega delivered at 6 am (1200 GMT) yesterday.

Ortega, voted out in a stunning election yesterday put the best face possible on his defeat and said the Sandinista Front had opened a "new road" to democracy in Nicaragua.

A Senior Soviet diplomat today hailed the Nicaraguan elections, in which the left-wing Sandinistas long-hacked by Moscow were defeated, as a key contribution to peace in Central America.

A confrontation in Managua between Sandinista and United National Opposition supporters developed into a drunken rock- and bottle-throwing fracas that was broken up by tear-gas tossing riot police.

"Now we're free. They can't oppress us any more," said Rodolfo Chamorro, one of three inebriated teen-agers harassing police from their car during the incident near UNO election headquarters. He is not related to president-elect Chamorro.

During the day, Sandinista and UNO leaders met with each other, with former US president Jimmy Carter and other key international election observers.



Ortega congratulates Chamorro. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sandinistas shocked

Stunning opposition victory

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Feb 27, (UPI):

Shocked supporters of the Sandinista Front watched and wept at election results marking the end of more than 10 years of control over Nicaragua.

"The people have forgotten everything," said a sobbing Cristina Ramos, shocked at the thought of people voting against the Sandinistas, who liberated Nicaragua from the rule of dictator Anastasio Somoza.

"Everything is lost," said her friend, Gabriel Pons, who also wept as a somber President Daniel Ortega spoke yesterday following Violeta Chamorro's upset victory Sunday.

US-backed candidate Chamorro's noisy, crowded victory rally in Managua's downtown Bambana restaurant, echoing with shouts of "Violeta Violeta" was a study in contrasts with Ortega's victory party turned political wake.

Sunday night, a bulletin board in Sandinista Front headquarters said Ortega would arrive at midnight to give "the victory proclamation."

But the hour came and went. As the time passed, conversation among several hundred people supporting Ortega's bid for re-election lost some of its animation and picked up an occasional quick glance or nervous laugh.

Eventually, the results were read on national television. Supporters at Sandinista headquarters dropped their heads and shuffled their feet.

Looks of disbelief were soon replaced with music as Ortega's flamboyant common-law wife, Rosario Morillo, coaxed supporters into song. Someone grabbed a guitar. Lively tunes of the Sandinista revolution filled campaign headquarters and spilled out onto the large paved entrance where hundreds of well-wishers had gathered.

The songs of struggle and accomplishment were voiced with feeling and punctuated with an occasional tear.

In contrast, Gloria Chavez screamed with delight as the head of Nicaragua's election commission proclaimed that Chamorro appeared to have won. She said she did not like Somoza, but Ortega was just as bad.

The driver of a car that sped past Chavez's home shouted "La Uno," — the Spanish-language acronym for Chamorro's 14-party coalition, the National Opposition Union.

"La Uno," Chavez smiled and screamed back from her doorway where she was watching television. She held up her forefinger in the proud sign of the party.

Ortega's supporters had been counting on support from the big cities such as Managua, the capital, but Chavez and many other Managua residents answered back that the pollsters and Ortega's supporters were wrong.

Explaining why she voted for Chamorro, Chavez said, "you can see what (the Sandinistas) have done to the economy." She said she has been forced to sell cigarettes on the street to get by.

"It's incredible," said Albert Rivera, who served as an election judge. He said that in his polling place alone, about 250 people voted for Uno, with about 100 voting for the Sandinistas.

Rene Rivera, a Sandinista candidate for town council in San Juan Del Rio Coco sat-dumfounded at the kitchen table yesterday listening to the radio as Ortega, told the nation he had lost Sunday's election.

"We don't understand what happened. But if this is what the people decided this is how it will be," said Rivera.

World hails voters' verdict

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (Agencies):

Foreign opinion generally welcomed the upset victory by Nicaraguan opposition leader Violeta Chamorro and praised Sandinista President Daniel Ortega for pledging to respect the voters' verdict.

Perhaps no world leader was happier than US President George Bush, who said: "Any friend of democracy can take heart in the fact that Violeta Chamorro won the election."

"The election process, by all accounts free and fair, is a credit to the people of Nicaragua who chose to determine their nation's future at the ballot box," he said.

Bush seemed to go out of his way to extend an olive branch to Ortega, whom he once likened to a skunk. The Reagan and Bush administrations have ruled against Sandinista Nicaragua, imposed economic sanctions, and backed the Contra rebels.

"The people of Nicaragua and the cause of democracy have won an impressive and important victory today," ex-president Ronald Reagan said in a statement. The biggest scandal in his administration, the Iran-Contra affair, arose in part because of secret diversion of funds to the Contra rebels.

"We must provide her new government with aid and let's not kid ourselves — it will take big bucks," said Senate minority leader Bob Dole. "She needs our help and she deserves it."

"Nobody said democracy was cheap," added Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Dante Fascell.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar praised the vote as a major step towards Central American peace.

Ortega's government "deserves warm commendations for having convened these elections ahead of schedule, having submitted to the test of the people's will, and accepting the verdict of the ballot box," he said in a statement.

Prominent South American leaders congratulated Chamorro and praised the defeated Sandinistas for upholding democracy.

"The elections represent a milestone in the history of Nicaragua and of all Central America. They have enormously strengthened democracy in the continent and we foresee a promising future..." Argentine President Carlos Menem said in a message to Chamorro, US ally which accuses the Sandinistas of aiding leftist Salvadoran rebels, also expressed satisfaction at Chamorro's victory and said it might help peace prospects in El Salvador.

But government spokesman Mauricio Solis, a close aide also spoke admiringly of Ortega's "political maturity" in defeat.

The Cuban state media, which had been predicting a near-certain win for Ortega, reported without comment that the US-backed Chamorro appeared headed for victory.

In Miami, home to around 150,000 Nicaraguan exiles, anti-Sandinista leaders expressed hopes about a homecoming.

"The Nicaraguan people have triumphed by ousting the Sandinistas with their vote," said Aristides Sanchez, a leader of the Nicaraguan resistance based in Miami.

In Panama, second vice-president Guillermo Ford said: "God bless Violeta."

In Honduras, US-backed Contras said they would not give up their arms until "the Sandinista government surrendered 'total power' — including military power — to Chamorro."

Bush telephoned Reagan to tell the former president it was "his steadfast support for democracy" that helped bring about the Nicaraguan election results, a White House spokesman said today.

Menem urged to scrap free market plans to cure inflation, recession

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Feb 27, (AP):

Political groups that backed the Peronist Party in national elections last May urged President Carlos Menem today to scrap his free market plans to cure inflation, recession and unemployment in Argentina.

"In an act of honesty as politicians and allies, we're going to tell the President he's going down the wrong road," Essio Silveira, leader of the Christian Democrat Party, told reporters before meeting with Menem.

Menem, a 59-year-old attorney and former provincial governor, has pledged to spur

economic growth by balancing the budget, selling state companies, deregulating monopolies, ending subsidies, lowering trade barriers, reforming the tax code and purging corruption.

However, three large increases in public service rates and passage of a law that orders imprisonment for tax evaders has not greatly narrowed the government budget deficit that stands at an unsustainable 10 to 15 per cent of gross domestic product.

And the freeing from controls of wages, prices and foreign exchange has not stopped

the large-scale devaluations that began a year ago, or the contraction of real wages which have failed to keep pace with inflation.

The cost of living soared by 79 per cent in January and is projected to be at least that much this month. The inflation rate skyrocketed by 4,924 per cent in 1989, and by 8,124 per cent during the previous 12 months.

The gross domestic product almost certainly will decline for a third straight year in 1990. Real wages are 50 per cent below the average for the 1980, according to the Latin America research foundation. One of every

five Argentines lacks a fulltime job.

"The conservative, monetarist measures are taking the government down a dead-end street," said Carlos Zaffore of the integration and development movement.

The Peronist Party needed all the support it could muster last May 14 to oust the civic radical union of then-president Raul Alfonsin.

It put together a coalition called the Justicialist Popular Unity Front comprised of the Christian Democrats, the intransigent and popular conservative parties, the Integration

Movement, the Authentic Socialist and several other parties.

Party leaders have grumbled recently that not only did Menem turn his back on the people who voted for him — organised labour and other groups that believe the state should direct the economy — but worse, he failed to make things better.

Menem insists he is on the right track and problems are "transitory" as an economy dominated by the state for four decades reorients itself. Yesterday, he asked his for-

mer supporters for a "truce" of two or three months.

However, even the national chairman of the Peronist Party, Buenos Aires province Gov. Antonio Cafiero, indicated Menem's political backing was weakening when he said he hoped any "truce" would not be for so long, because social discontent is rising.

Last week, slum dwellers in several provinces looted food stores and delivery trucks in what government officials feared was a recurrence of disorders that resulted in food

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Opec must expand daily capacity: Subroto

Oil prices could rise by 50pc in 5 years



Subroto

clearer in recent months. For one thing, global consumption has been growing — by an average of more than one million bpd since prices collapsed in 1986, to 52.1 bpd last year, according to the International Energy Agency in Paris. Global consumption — the Soviet Union, China and Eastern Europe excluded — is expected to break the 11-year record of 52.3 million bpd this year.

Many economists say the rapid growth of demand in the Far East, where many rapidly industrialised economies are growing quickly, will keep demand rising at close to that rate even if US demand does not grow.

In Japan, three years ago the government estimated growth in total energy use at one per cent a year. But after a surge that put the total above five per cent in 1988, the government revised its estimate to an average of 3.2 per cent through the 1990s.

Private economists also expect the growth in energy use in Southeast Asia to average five per cent a year through 2000. Oil has soared by 27 per cent and 20 per cent to the last two years.

Eastern Europe could add three million barrels to the demand for Opec oil in this decade because the Soviet Union, with its limited oil available for export, is starting to export less to the former communist bloc, says David Mizrahi, editor of the New York-based "Middle East Reports".

At the same time, the world's oil supply-demand picture is being changed by falling production in the Soviet Union and the United States. Last year, those two nations have together reduced output by about five per cent, or one million bpd, to about 19 million bpd.

As a whole, non-Opec nations, excluding the Soviet Union, China and Eastern Europe, are pumping about 29 million bpd, or about the quantity they were producing when oil prices collapsed in January.

But over the same period, the 13 Opec nations have raised output by nearly five million bpd to an average of 21.7 million bpd last year, meeting virtually all the additional demand.

Indeed, the question about Opec now is not one of excess production, but whether it can expand its ability to pump enough oil to match rising demand, experts say.

Some analysts say Gulf Opec nations — Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia — will be unable to add enough capacity to overcome production declines elsewhere within Opec. Algeria, Gabon and Ecuador are not expected to be exporting much oil by the year 2000.

Opec secretary general Dr Subroto said in Houston this month that Opec saw demand for its oil rising to 29 million bpd in 1995. To meet this figure, he added, Opec must expand daily capacity by at least one million bpd every year for the next five years.

Subroto said Opec must spend \$60 billion to add this capacity, and he called on governments, bankers and private oil companies in oil-consuming nations to link arms with the organisation on the project. Both sides had a large stake in keeping oil prices stable, he said.

The Opec secretary general said Opec nations feared a sharp increase in prices, remembering the early 1980s when high prices slashed long-term demand and set the economies of Opec countries into hard times.

After 50 years Belgrade reopens exchange

BELGRADE, Feb 27, (Reuters): Yugoslavia's Stock Exchange resumed trading today for the first time since World War Two, but only four traders showed up.

The Yugoslav capital market opened in a small room on the ninth floor of a Belgrade office block, part of reforms launched by the government to revive Yugoslavia's shattered economy after more than four decades of communist rule.

Trade was restricted to treasury bonds issued by the government of Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic, and so far only four banks have permission to operate on the exchange. Four more are keen to do so.

Dealers shouted over a table and prices were written on a blackboard in chalk — no electronic screens were used. The volume of trading reached only 250,000 dinars (\$21,000) but the Belgrade exchange declared its first day a success.

"This is a historic moment for us. We are opening a completely new era in business," said Branislav Cosic, deputy director of the exchange.

"We are introducing something new which will attract a lot of private individuals to invest in companies, to take the risk which you have with shares," he added.

Trading will initially take place just once a week. But similar exchanges are due to open this year in the Croatian and Slovenian capitals of Zagreb and Ljubljana.

Cosic hoped dealing in stocks and shares in Yugoslav companies could start "very soon" but declined to say when. Trade in shares of large foreign companies was a long-term aim.

He expected the stock exchange to blossom because reforms relaxing tight state controls on Yugoslav companies should encourage them to issue shares and bonds.

The 12-year treasury bonds offered today carried an annual interest rate of eight to 10 per cent, Cosic said.

Equity stake sold to Orcofi

MIDLAND Bank SA has sold its 95 per cent equity stake in Lanvin to Orcofi, a holding company majority-owned by the Vitanton family group which also includes a number of prestigious financial and industrial partners.

In the context of its merchant banking activities, Midland Bank SA took a participation in March 1989 to provide Lanvin with financial, human and organisational support.

The objective was to create the conditions under which a new era of expansion at Lanvin could be assured.

This aim having been fully achieved Midland Bank SA has chosen to transfer control of the House of Lanvin, to Orcofi, a group with all the strengths and expertise necessary to implement a strategy of quality and of prestige, in furtherance of the tradition of Lanvin.

NEW YORK, Feb 27, (OPECNA): Oil prices could rise by 50 per cent within five years as many analysts doubt that the world's ability to pump oil can keep pace with growing demand, particularly in Asia and reformist Eastern European nations.

Until recently, most oil executives and analysts had anticipated that prices, now averaging at about \$20 a barrel, would rise at a rate slightly above inflation during the 1990s, to not more than about \$25 a barrel by 1995. They are now saying that \$30 a barrel is likely by then.

Many analysts say the supply-demand balance has been shifted by factors including declining output in the United States and the Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producers outside Opec. Some of these factors they list as moves by Eastern European nations to buy oil from the Gulf, demand in East Asia that is growing far faster than has been expected, and production restraints in oil-rich Gulf Arab states.

The speed of the climb in oil prices "will catch a lot of people by surprise," said Mehdi Varzi, an energy researcher. "By 1995 it is more likely

that we would have \$30 oil." George Friensen, an analyst, said, "there are a lot of imponderables, but I would say the risk of oil prices spiking is greater now than at any time in the last 10 years." He also said \$30 a barrel in the 1990s was a strong possibility.

Several industry executives, consultants and economists agree that future price increases for oil might be much steeper than had been predicted even six months ago.

Experts say a surge in oil prices would "threaten" the economies of major oil-consuming nations like the United States, Japan and West Germany with rising inflation, higher interest rates and slower growth and recession. Many economists attribute the 1981-82 recession in the United States, the worst since World War II, to the sharp increase in oil prices in 1979, a view not shared by Opec states.

Within the United States, property values and employment will rise in energy-producing states like Texas, Colorado and Alaska, while declining in the northeast and midwest, according to Stephen Brown, an

economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

"With every one dollar increase in oil prices, Texas adds 15,000 jobs and New York state loses 1,000," Brown said. The country as a whole loses 78,000 jobs for every one dollar rise, he adds.

The US trade deficit, which included \$49 billion in payment for imported oil in 1989, would soar with rising oil prices. Then, over time, some combination of conservation, a slowing economy, rising domestic oil production and more use of alternative fuels would ease import demands, economists say.

Because of the change in the supply-demand picture for oil, the widely held view now is that average prices for West Texas intermediate crude, the American benchmark, will exceed \$20 a barrel this year for the first time since 1985.

The price of West Texas crude was \$21.42 a barrel Friday, and has remained above \$21 throughout the winter even though unusually warm weather has lowered heating oil demand since the year began. The average figure last year was \$19.65,

as compared with \$15.98 in 1988.

Most analysts expect the price to fall below \$19 a barrel by late March, when demand usually slows.

But the price could well rise again after that, many industry experts say, because of trends that have become

Shares recover in Europe

Gold dips to 5-week low

LONDON, Feb 27, (Reuters): Shares closed with a positive tone across Europe today but investors remained wary of piling back into a market which is still clouded by uncertainty.

The dollar was weakened by news of a record drop in US durable goods orders for January and closed a penny weaker against the West German mark but was unchanged against a weak Japanese yen after central bank intervention capped its rise.

The volatility of equity markets over the past week, prompted by heavy losses in Tokyo, has pushed many investors

nervously to the sidelines. And a strong overnight recovery in Japan does not mean traders will flock back yet.

"People are still wary of the stability of foreign markets, particularly Tokyo. It's an uncertain time for equities," one London trader said.

Another said: "Although no one wants to see the market tumble, they're not prepared to really get in there and buy."

The possibility of higher global interest rates still hangs over the market as traders speculating about rate rises in

Japan and West Germany fear they could lead to increases elsewhere.

People are worried that the planned unification of East and West Germany will cost Bonn dearly by fuelling inflation which could force a rise in West German rates.

London shares edged only mildly higher in what one dealer described as an apathetic market, and responded tentatively to early gains on Wall Street. The Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares closed up 5.5

points at 2,254.8.

German shares were higher as confidence returned to the market but trading was light because of a carnival holiday. The Dax index of 30 leading shares was up 28.28 points at 1,804.32.

Dealers say German shares seem to have found a new base level after surging 34 per cent from November in early February on euphoria about Eastern Europe, then dropping 10 per cent.

Gold fell to a five-week low and closed down \$4.30 at \$407.25 an ounce.

Japan's economy continues to expand

TOKYO, Feb 27, (UPI): The economic planning agency, citing leading economic indicators, said today Japan's economy was still expanding in December, extending the current continuous expansion to the 38th straight month.

The agency said the leading index in December stood at 45.5 per cent against the

boom-or-bust line of 50 per cent but a recovery in production could lift the index above 50 per cent mark in January.

The index consists of 13 indicators, including new job offers, housing starts, money supply and shipments of durable consumer goods.

Any level above the 50 per cent mark is

regarded as a sign of economic expansion in the upcoming months.

The index stood at 41.7 per cent in November and 66.7 per cent in October.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Japan's mining and manufacturing production in January grew a modest 0.2 per cent over December.

Petrochemical output to rise by half

NICOSIA, Feb 27, (Reuters): Iran's output of petrochemicals will rise 50 per cent to three million tonnes a year in the Iranian year beginning March 21, the official Iran news agency reported today.

"I said investment in the industry would increase to 214 billion rials (\$3.06 billion at the official exchange rate) from 80 billion rials (\$1.14 billion) this year."

The figures were discussed in a board meeting of Iran's National Petrochemical Company chaired by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani today, said Iran, received in Cyprus.

Meanwhile, Iran, long at odds with France over political issues, has awarded a French company the management contract for completing the Gulf's largest petrochemical complex, abandoned by a Japanese firm after years of wrangling.

A statement from Technip, an engineering group controlled by French public sector companies, said today it had won a management contract for the "rehabilitation, construction and start-up" of the Bandar Khomeini petrochemical project.

Japan's Mitsui group earlier this month paid Iran \$900 million in compensation for pulling out of the project, which was repeatedly bombed by Iraqi jets during the Gulf war.

Iran and Mitsui have invested a total of \$4.2 billion in the project since construction began in 1971. It was 85 per cent complete when the Gulf war broke out in 1980.

Sources at Technip said the French government had not wanted to publicise the company's involvement and that Technip had only decided to make the news public after it had been announced by the Iranian Oil Ministry. No financial details were disclosed.

The deal is the second substantial contract won by French companies in Iran's strategic oil sector in recent weeks.

The French building group GTM Entrepouse recently signed a \$45-million deal to repair Iran's Nasr platform in the Gulf's offshore Sirri field, industry sources said.

Tehran and Paris, which have been trying to improve strained diplomatic relations since 1989, are also negotiating over reimbursement of the last third of a \$1 billion loan advanced by the late Shah of Iran.

Iran also wants France to pay interest on the loan while France is claiming compensation for contracts cancelled by Iran after the 1979 revolution.

Currency market movements

LONDON, Feb 27, (Reuters): The following table shows the latest closes of key indices on major world stock exchanges, the day's change in points and the indices' 1989/90 highs and lows (with dates). Also shown are the London closes of the West German mark, the Japanese yen, the British pound sterling and gold bullion (previous closes in brackets).

	Feb 27 Day's change	1989/90 high	1989/90 low
New York	2,254.55	2,810.15	2,144.64
London	2,254.8	2,463.7	1,782.8
Tokyo	33,897.95	38,915.87	30,183.79
Frankfurt	752.57	807.13	535.78
Paris	494.60	561.15	417.5

Sydney 1,570.4 +24.1 1,781.8 1,412.7 (Aug 29/89) (Apr 10/89)
Hong Kong 2,932.62 +59.99 3,309.64 2,093.61 (May 15/89) (June 5/89)

Foreign exchange/gold bullion close in London
Dollar/mark 1.6833 marks (1.6887)
Dollar/yen 148.70 yen (unchanged)
Pound/dollar \$1.6915 (\$1.6950)
Gold \$407.25 (\$411.55)

Indices used and their all-time highs
New York Dow Jones industrial average — 2,810.15 (Jan 2/90)
London FTSE index — 2,463.7 (Jan 3/89)
Tokyo Nikkei Average — 38,915.87 (Dec 29/89)
Frankfurt Faz index — 807.13 (Feb 5/89)
Paris CAC General index — 561.6 (Oct 11/89)
Sydney Australian All-Ordinaries index — 2,305.9 (Sept 21/87)
Hong Kong Hang Seng index — 3,349.73 (Oct 1/87)

Plans to set up new company

Lufthansa sets two new records

LUFTHANSA set two new records in the 1989 business year. The overall load factor of Lufthansa aircraft rose 67.6 per cent the highest ever in the company's history.

1989 was also the first year in which the German carrier transported more than 20 million passengers and the freight tonnage transported rose by 10.8 per cent to about \$70,000 tonnes.

The overall increase of eight per cent in sales stemmed not only from better capacity utilisation but also from a 7.1 per cent rise in capacity. During 1989 Lufthansa offered 7.6 per cent more flights and its passenger and freight planes logged more than 290,000 flights to destinations around the world covering close to 360 million flight kilometres, 7 per cent more than in the previous year.

Meanwhile, Lufthansa operated its first direct flight across the inner-German border on Wednesday, January 31, 1990. Following approval from the transport minister in Bonn and the East German Transport Ministry, a Lufthansa Boeing 737 overflew the German-German border, passing through the previously no-go Military Air Defence Identification Zone (Adiz) instead of detouring across Czechoslovakia. The plane was on a special flight from Munich to Dresden with a delegation headed by Bavarian Prime Minister Dr Max Streibl.

Lufthansa Chairman Heinz Ruhnau, who was also on board, thanked the authorities and especially the West German Transport Minister, Dr Zimmermann, for a "far-sighted decision."

It was a good and encouraging sign that a start had also been made on opening up the skies across the German-German border. The approved flight through the Adiz signalled that people were willing to bury the relics of the postwar era, and allow normal European-style Air Traffic between the two German states, he said.

Heinz Ruhnau pointed out that the direct flight through the Adiz had shortened the Munich-Dresden flight route by 119 kilometres and cut 15 minutes off the flight time. Moreover, the Boeing 707 had made a useful contribution to a better environment by saving about 650 litres of fuel.

Lufthansa is to set up a new company in order to expand its participation in New Airport Projects. Concentrating initially on Eastern Europe, the new Lufthansa Airport Service GmbH will offer its service in the planning and construction of airports, and take over ground handling operations for other airlines.

With opportunities arising from liberalisation of European air traffic, the Lufthansa Airport Service GmbH will also step up its activities in West Germany and Western Europe.

Additionally, Lufthansa Airport Service GmbH will serve as a holding company for existing Lufthansa operating and handling associated companies in Berlin, Singapore, Lagos, Cairo, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The new company will come under the umbrella of Lufthansa commercial holding GmbH Headquarters in Cologne.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Feb 27, (Reuters): The market bounced back from Monday's slide, led by a strong performance on Wall Street and a rally in Tokyo. The All Ordinaries index rose 24.1 points at 1,570.4.

TOKYO: Shares galloped to a higher close after gyrating throughout the day in a 1,200-plus range. Trading was modest but a step above its recent subdued levels. The Nikkei index surged 576.08 points, or 1.73 per cent, to close at 33,897.95 after tumbling 1,569.10 on Monday.

HONG KONG: Shares closed sharply higher as traders drew positive signs from a better performance in

Tokyo and resilience on Wall Street. The Hang Seng index rose 59.99 points, or 2.09 per cent, to close at 2,932.62.

SINGAPORE: The market staged a strong rebound as prices closed sharply higher across the board after Monday's sharp losses. The Straits Times industrial index rose 28.53 points, or 1.89 per cent, to close at 1,535.09.

FRANKFURT: West German shares ended 1.6 per cent higher as confidence returned to the market in quiet trading. The Dax index closed at 1,804.32, up 28.28 points.

ZURICH: Swiss shares closed

broadly higher in quiet trading. The Swiss performance index rose 12.4 points, or 1.14 per cent, to close at 1,103.6.

LONDON: Shares were slightly higher in thin late-afternoon dealings, as the market responded tentatively to a rally on Wall Street. At 1654 GMT the FTSE index was up 5.3 points at 2,254.6.

NEW YORK: Light futures-related buying helped Wall Street stocks gain further despite a record drop in US January durable goods orders. At 1630 GMT the Dow Jones industrial average was up about 23 points at 2,625.

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KE-801 — Every Friday from Seoul:

DEP. 18:40 Seoul...
ARR. 02:50 (Saturday) Bahrain
DEP. 04:00 (Saturday) Bahrain
ARR. 06:10 (Saturday) Jeddah

KE-802 — Every Saturday from Jeddah:

DEP. 20:20 Jeddah...
ARR. 22:15 Bahrain...
DEP. 23:25 Bahrain...
ARR. 17:10 Seoul (Sunday).

(All times are local)

For details contact:

KOREAN AIR

Jeddah 6606396	Riyadh 4652945	Bahrain 234445
6657107	4652949	8645233
Dhahran 8645895	Dubai 282779	Amman 662236
Kuwait 245382821	Doha 428043	Baghdad 7180434
Abu Dhabi 338700	Cairo 747399	Damascus 2191119
Sanaa 272547	Tehran 835051	Muscat 704456

Unilever group links 24pc profit increase

LONDON, Feb 27, (Reuters): Anglo-Dutch food, cosmetics and soap giant Unilever reported a 24 per cent rise in 1989 pre-tax profits today, attributing it to a healthy growth in sales.

Unilever Plc-NV, one of the world's largest consumer goods companies, announced combined fourth quarter profits of \$431 million (\$727 million) compared with \$377 million (\$637 million) in the same period of 1988.

This took 1989 pre-tax profits to £1.8 billion (\$3.03 billion), slightly above forecasts by market analysts, against £1.45 billion (\$2.5 billion) in 1988.

Group co-chairman Sir Michael Angus said the rise in earnings was helped by the fall in the value of sterling and a 10 per cent rise in sales — four per cent from existing business and the rest from recent acquisitions and disposals.

Unilever launched a major expansion scheme last year with purchases of the cosmetics and toiletries businesses of Fabergé Inc, including Elizabeth Arden.

Food products provided the bulk of turnover of £5.39 billion (\$9.08 billion) compared with turnover of £4.49 billion (\$7.57 billion) in 1988.

Unilever said it had spent £1.9 billion (\$3.2 billion) in 1989 on 55 acquisitions, including Elizabeth Arden and Calvin Klein. It said these purchases helped make it one of the world's leading companies in personal products.

The company, which has a major margarine and edible fats business, noted a continued decline in total fat consumption as well as a growing demand in Europe for high-quality foods with nutritional benefits. It said this offered more opportunities for products with a polysaturated or low fat content.

"Our companies have responded positively and effectively to this changing consumer trend," it said in a statement.

In Rotterdam, co-chairman Floris Mulders expressed concern at a news conference over the effect of high interest rates on Unilever's prospects for 1990.

"I'm not pessimistic over 1990, but I'm less optimistic than last year," he said. "The economic outlook is more uncertain now and we are sure to feel the impact of high interest rates."

"If 1989 could be described as Allegro then 1990 will be Allegro Moderato," he said.

But despite high financing costs Mulders did not rule out further large-scale acquisitions in 1990 and said he hoped to strengthen Unilever's foothold in East European markets.

Bugging of UK firm raises questions about corporate ethics

LONDON, Feb 27, (Reuters): Who put the bug in the boardroom? Industrial espionage is under surveillance in Britain following the discovery of a bugging device in the office of a British businessman.

It has also raised questions as to how widespread electronic surveillance is in the increasingly cut-throat business world.

Laing Properties Plc, a properties investment firm, reported discovering a listening device in the office of a senior executive in mid-February.

Keeping out the unduly curious has long been a priority for defence contractors and government agencies, but spying in British boardrooms was rare until recently.

Nicholas Vafiadis, technical director of Communications Audit Ltd, a subsidiary of merchant bankers Hambro, says the grow-

ing trend in Britain is largely due to internationalisation of the financial market since 1987.

"With the growing number of international takeover battles the temptation to gain additional intelligence on a company, regardless of the ethics, is a serious problem," he wrote in an article published last year.

Laing, which is involved in property investment and development in Britain and the United States, is trying to fend off a hostile takeover bid by Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. Plc and property group Chesfield Plc.

They did not check the listening device was connected with the bid and bidders rejected any suggestion of involvement.

Deregulation of the financial markets with the "big bang" of 1987, the fierce competition which ensued and the boom in the use of electronics brought added security risks like computer fraud.

Vafiadis, whose firm provides consultancy on security, believes the arrival of multinational firms of the London market eroded the City of London business district's old code of honour under which the established British companies operated.

"Whereas years ago you were dealing only with British firms, you are dealing with international companies and the real world is dirtier and nastier than the city used to be," Vafiadis said.

The best known case of bugging related to a contested bid was in 1986 shortly after Woolworth Holdings, now Kingfisher, suc-

cessfully defeated an offer by electrical retailers Dixons.

It came to light when three men were convicted in 1988 of placing a bug found in a biscuit tin connected to the telephone line outside the home of a Woolworth director.

Vafiadis told Reuters companies are usually reluctant to publicise breaches of security and many cases, which could match a James Bond movie plot, are never reported.

He cited the example of a company which unquestioningly accepted delivery of a new boardroom table while its manager was away only to find after several unexplained security leaks that the legs were hollow and fitted with listening devices.

Police and security experts find it impos-

sible to quantify how much eavesdropping and computer fraud is going on but they estimate espionage has soared.

"If you look at the sales curve of specialist electronics firms, you'll see a straight line going upwards," said Vafiadis, whose firm also specialises in debugging — removing bugs.

Many of his clients will have their offices debugged two to three times a year at an average cost of £3,000 to £5,000 (\$5,000 to \$8,500). Companies involved in takeovers will have offices debugged every six weeks, he added.

Last year, in a bitterly contested bid by the investment company Anglo group for tobacco and financial services giant B.A.T. Industries, financier Sir James Goldsmith complained that B.A.T. had hired an inves-

tigative agency to fend him off.

Business sleuths now play a key role in takeover battles on both sides of the Atlantic and Vafiadis said that while most of them do not condone illegal bugging, problems arise when they hire subcontractors who in turn hire others to gather information.

"It's the business ethics of the people at the bottom you have to worry about," he said.

It is not illegal to buy bugs in Britain but using a transmitter bug without permission can result in a £2,000 (\$3,500) fine or several months in jail. Phone tapping carries bigger sentences.

Phone tapping is the preferred method of eavesdropping because it is a relatively easy technique and hard to trace if done professionally.

American trade deficit narrows

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (AP): The US foreign trade deficit narrowed to \$113.2 billion last year, its lowest level since 1984, as exports of manufactured products and farm goods posted sizeable gains, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said the increased exports helped overcome a continued increase in imports last year as the country improved its trading position with almost every nation.

The \$113.2-billion deficit was an 11 per cent improvement from a 127.2-billion deficit in 1988. It

stemmed from a 13.4 per cent rise in exports, which climbed to a record \$361.9 billion. This offset a 6.4 per cent increase in imports, which also hit an all-time high of 475.1 billion.

The trade deficit is the difference between imports and exports. Today's report on merchandise trade as calculated on a balance of payments basis confirmed an improvement already noted in the Commerce Department's monthly merchandise trade reports. The totals, however, are slightly different because the new report excludes military sales by

the US government and makes other minor adjustments in monthly figures.

For the fourth quarter, the trade deficit posted an increase of 0.9 per cent to \$28.8 billion, following a deficit of 28.6 billion in the third quarter.

This marked the second consecutive quarter in which the US trade deficit failed to improve, a trend analysts have termed worrisome given the fact that the annual deficit remains stuck above \$100 billion. Economists have expressed

fears that the deficit could begin deteriorating again in 1990, which would be a blow to President George Bush's economic goals. The administration is hoping that further sizeable gains in exports will spur a resurgence in the US manufacturing sector, which has fallen on hard times in the past year, particularly in the key auto industry.

In the fourth quarter, exports climbed 1.6 per cent to \$92.1 billion but this gain was offset by a 1.4 per cent gain in imports which rose to 120.9 billion.

Overdue payments worry US New money for IMF delayed

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (AP): The United States and other leading countries have failed to agree on providing billions of dollars to the International Monetary Fund for lending to the Third World and Eastern Europe.

The fund said Monday it has put off a decision on new funding until the end of June in yet another setback for the agency.

The deadline had been set for March 31 after repeated postponements. That date would have represented a two-year delay over the normal timetable for reviewing fund resources. Decisions normally are taken every five years.

Poland has recently won a \$730-million loan from the fund and approval is reported to be near on a \$15 million loan for Hungary.

Though small in comparison with the borrowing needs of Eastern Europe, these loans are important in opening the way to lending by others. Governments and commercial banks take confidence from the strict economic measures that the fund requires countries to put in place before it lends money.

Resources of the fund amount to the equivalent of \$117 billion, but much of that is in currencies of Third World countries and is not in demand by borrowers.

Managing Director Michel Camdessus has asked that the total be doubled. Although he had widespread support among the 152 member governments, the United States, Britain and Saudi Arabia demurred.

The United States has been reported ready for a 50 per cent increase. That would require it to put up nearly \$12 billion as the largest source of the fund's money. The outlook would not count in the US budget because the money is considered still the property of the United States, which receives interest on dollars that the fund lends out.

The United States itself could borrow other countries' currency, as it has in the past.

Japan raised a problem when it asked to be the number two contributor instead of number five. Officials said this issue had been virtually settled, with West Germany as number three, though the relative positions of Britain and France are not yet clear.

"The officials, who spoke on condition they not be named, said the US Treasury is concerned about overdue payments to the fund from 11 Third World countries, which have reached nearly \$4.8 billion. The fund has set up special arrangements for loans to the poorest countries on easier terms, but those which have not brought their accounts up to date are not eligible to not take advantage of the offer."

Treasury Undersecretary David C. Mulford has been asked to testify Thursday on the fund before a panel of Congressmen, the subcommittee on international development, finance, trade and monetary policy of the banking committee in the House of Representatives.



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Mauritius to expand financial business

PORT LOUIS, Feb 27, (Reuters): The Indian Ocean island of Mauritius, hoping to become a financial centre for Africa, has announced plans to broaden the range of its offshore financial activities.

Finance Minister Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo told reporters last night the government was preparing legislation which would open up offshore facilities for portfolio management companies, insurance firms, wealth management companies and international trade specialists.

Central Bank Governor Indur Rampool was drawing up a bill which would be put before parliament in April, he added.

Mauritius issued a first round of licences to offshore banks last year. Lutchmeenaraidoo said the enhanced facilities were aimed at persuading Japanese and other Asian firms to use the island as a gateway for doing business with Africa.

He said he had promoted this idea on a tour of Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore and had received several enquiries.

"We have told them the Japanese they can't be absent from Mauritius, from Africa. And their presence in Africa can and must pass through Mauritius, the Gateway to Africa," he said.

Lutchmeenaraidoo stressed that the planned offshore centre would not be just a tax haven and he insisted that it would not become a channel for laundering drug money either.

"We want a credible offshore centre, serious and professional. Mauritius is not going to sell off to any institution that wants to do business here," he added.

Tehran to spend \$38.1b for power generation

TEHRAN, Feb 27, (Opecna): Iran is to spend \$38.1 billion on power generation and water projects under the nation's five-year development plan beginning next month, it was reported here yesterday.

According to Iranian Energy Minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh, an additional \$9.2 billion will be invested for the generation, transfer and distribution of power in addition to dam building and irrigation.

Over the next five years, he said, the Energy Ministry would complete unfinished power plants and build additional units, including a 1,000 mw station in northern Iran, the Karun-3 and Karun-4 hydraulic plants and another unit at the Karkheh dam in the south of the country.

The projects will increase the country's power generation capacity by 6,600 mw to 73 billion kilowatt hours (kwh) in 1994 from the present 50 billion kwh.

The ministry is also drawing up plans to supply electricity to another 10,000 villages in Iran, bringing the total number to 32,500.

Meanwhile, a 410 mw power station in the southern province of Khuzestan has been brought on stream.

The station, which cost \$28.5 million to construct, is located 10 km northwest of Ahvaz. It is one of the country's biggest plants of its kind.

The reconstruction of two war-damaged plants in Abadan and Khorramshahr has been completed by Iranian technicians. A ceremony marking their return to operation was attended by the energy minister last week.

During a tour of the province, Zangeneh inspected construction work on the Karkheh Bozorg dam in the city of Andimeshk, situated north of Ahvaz, which when completed will produce 600 MW hours of electricity and enable the irrigation of 200,000 hectares of land under cultivation.

He disclosed at a press conference that a second unit at the Ramin power station in Ahvaz producing 315 mw hours would be inaugurated soon while units three and four would come on stream in the next three years.

The minister said that an agreement had been signed with the Soviet Union for the provision of two additional 315 mw units at the Ramin station which would bring total output to 2,000 MW hours.

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Soviet experts estimate Unemployed at 8 million

MOSCOW, Feb 27, (Reuters): Experts with the Soviet State Planning Committee estimate the number of unemployed at about eight million — about four times higher than official figures, an independent Soviet news agency said today.

The postcard news agency, newly set up to provide economic and political news for businesses, said the new estimate had been made by experts at the Economic Research Institute of Gosplan.

"According to expert estimates ... unemployment amounts to no less than eight million people now. The official estimate of the USSR Goskomtrud (State Labour Committee), about two million, seems to be far too low," the agency said. The population of the Soviet Union is at least 280 million.

Postcard said the Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet, would consider a fourth draft of a bill on unemployment next month. It calls for setting up regional employment centres, an employment fund and unemployment benefits.

The European part of the Soviet Union has until recently suffered from a labour shortage. Unemployment was largely restricted to Central Asia, where a high birth rate, low industrialisation and seasonal agricultural work have taken a heavy toll on job opportunities.

But Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's structures against overstaffing, low productivity and the forced closure of non-productive enterprises have resulted in job shortages in other regions, despite official pledges to the contrary.

Official estimates of the number of unemployed do not take into account the large number of "vagrants" or "parasites" — people who choose not to work and who rely on friends and family for support, or those living illegally in Moscow and other large cities where they have no right to jobs.

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAICH PORT AS ON 27/2/90

B.No.	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel. No.
15	Ville D'Oman	Y.A. Alghamir	4745533
16	Almoussery	Al Fahed	2432366
18	World Themes	K.T.S.	2436930
19	Mykonos	ISA	2441860

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAICH PORT

B.No.	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel. No.
21/2	Atlantic Reef	S. Shaloon	2432692
21/2	G. Stainlaw Poplawski	Arabian Seas	2421303
21/2	E. Kwiatkowski	Arabian Seas	2421303
21/2	Buzen	Mohd Bahar	2401500
21/2	Enigle World	K.T.S.	2436930

SHIPS DISCHARGING/LOADING AT SHUWAICH PORT

B.No.	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel. No.
02	Prosperity	RMS	2423642
12	Arctic Rose	UASC	2441860
18	Q.I. Fujia	UASC	4843150
19	Polar Star	Algh Berwil	4842988

SHIPS AT SHUWAICH ANCHORAGE

B.No.	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel. No.
21/2	China Glory	Algh Berwil	4842988
21/2	Almoussery	Y.A. Alghamir	4745533
21/2	Moscow	M.A. Bahar	2401900
21/2	Westphalia	Al Kamal	2425437
21/2	Al Almudla	UASC	2441860
21/2	Cape Jordan	Algh Berwil	4843988
21/2	Great Harvest	RMS	2423642
21/2	Prometheus	ISA	2441860
04/2	Al Mughal	UASC	4843150
11/3	Cool Charity	UASC	4843150

Compiled by: Alghamir Berwil Shipping Co. WLL, Tel: 4842988/4843988 ext. 3622/3638 Fax No. 4845712, TLX 22084 BAWIL KY.

Stock market average: 33977.95

(+576.76) Volume: 550 mil shs Yen exchange rate: 149.25

Name of stock	Ch	Ch
Advanced Corp	4920	+ 90
Aijumoto	2248	+ 40
Alps Electric	1960	+ 40
Amada	1800	+ 20
Asahi Chem Ind	1020	+ 40
Asahi Glass	1840	+ 40
C. Itoh Co	800	+ 20
Canon Inc	1510	+ 50
Casio Comp	1560	+ 80
Dai Nippon Printing	2140	+ 40
Daiichi Sanyo	2600	+ 20
Dainippon Ph	2640	+ 10
Daiichi Chem	1900	+ 50
Eisai	1940	+ 60
Fanuc Ltd	8000	+ 180
Fuji Photo	4100	+ 200
Fujitsu Ltd	1480	+ 40
Hitachi Credit	1500	+ 50
Hitachi Koki	1800	+ 60
Hitachi Ltd	1520	+ 70
Hitachi Metal	1510	+ 90
Iwata Motor	1630	+ 10
Ito Yokado	3800	+ 180
Kajima Corp	1930	+ 30
Kawasaki H.I	890	+ 40
Kobe Cast Iron	1130	+ 10
Kokuyo Ind	2400	+ 20
Komatsu Ltd	1090	+ 30
Kyocera Corp	6790	+ 440
Mitsubishi Ind	2900	+ 170
Matsushita Ind	3400	+ 180
Mats Electric	2120	+ 80
Mazda MC	887	+ 17

Provided by Nomura Investment Banking (Midland), Bahrain

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Feb 27, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.		
	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.2917	0.2920
Sterling	0.49170	0.49386
DM	0.17218	0.17297
S.Fr	0.0542	0.05433
S.Fr	0.05089	0.05112
Liara	0.0002329	0.0002341
Jap yen	0.0019535	0.0019633
Bah dm	0.77312	0.77639
U.A.E. Dir.	0.07924	0.07969
S. ryal	0.07771	0.07804
Q. ryal	0.08004	0.08043
O ryal	0.75066	0.76035

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.250
Sri Lankan rupee	7.390
Pakistani rupee	13.760
Bangladesh taka	2.980
US dollar	2925
Pound sterling	49300
U.A.E. dirham	67958
Deutsche mark	17325
Japanese yen	601975

Market strategy

Akira Shimizu, Japanese student and prospective investor, studies stock market statistics on a monitor displayed at a coffee shop in Yokohama, near Tokyo. The coffee shop bears the name 'Kabuto-Cho', the same as the area where the Tokyo Stock Exchange is located and provides market strategy hints for investors and would-be's. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Oman's GDP growth accelerates

Oman is projected to record the highest rate of growth in nominal GDP of 5 per cent followed by the UAE 4.0 per cent, Bahrain and Qatar 3 per cent, Saudi Arabia 2.5 per cent and Kuwait 2 per cent. Slightly higher inflation rates may surface this year compared to the year before, reflecting partly the forecast stronger domestic activities.

The 1990 budget for Oman incorporates an 8 per cent increase in government expenditures, a lower budget deficit and higher revenues. The budget estimates total revenues for 1990 of RO1,433 million (\$3,727 million), an 18.4 per cent increase over the previous year's budget. A spending target of RO1,747 million is incorporated in this year's budget. The project spending figure is 42 per cent higher than in 1989, indicating that there have been cutbacks in current spending plans in order to make room for the higher projected expenditure.

The deficit for 1990 has consequently been set at RO314 million (\$817 million), compared with the RO408 million deficit in the 1989 budget. No details were announced of the methods to be used for financing the 1990 deficit, although the practice in previous years has been to raise an average of \$400 million a year from foreign loans and to draw down reserves to cover the rest.

Kuwait's 1989/90 budget for the fiscal year starting July 1, 1989 calls for a 4.4 per cent increase in expenditures to KD3,549 million (\$11,970 million). The increase has been made possible by an expected 8.6 per cent rise in revenues, which are projected to reach KD2,230 million (\$7,523 million). The budget deficit for 1989/90 has been set at KD1,319 million (\$4,450 million), 2 per cent down on the previous year. This figure is unlikely to be reached, however, as the Kuwaiti authorities consistently overestimate their budget shortfall.

The 1987/88 deficit of KD554 million (\$1,870 million) was less than half the KD1,400 million (\$4,722 million) budgeted. The deficit for fiscal 1988/89, which ended on 30th June 1989, was also well below the KD1,346 million (\$4,540 million) projected. Central bank treasury bills and bonds are issued to provide immediate cover for budget deficits, which are ultimately funded from the country's reserves.

The central bank is allowed to have bills and bonds worth up to KD3,000 million (\$10,118 million) outstanding. This amount was increased in early 1989 by KD1,400 million (\$4,722 million) to ensure the 1988/89 deficit could be covered. The rise in spending will be seen mainly in government salaries and in land purchases.

While UAE's budget for 1990 has not yet been announced, Bahrain's two years budgets for 1989 and 1990 envisage a 1.9 per cent increase in total expenditures this year to BD540 million (\$1,432 million) compared to BD530 million (\$1,405 million) in 1989 and total revenues are projected to be up 2.4 per cent to BD440 million (\$1,167 million). Around 57 per cent of total revenues budgeted

Indian Video Roundup



Amitabh and Jaya Bachchan



Om Puri

Charismatic Amit has that 'something extra'

By Fatima Ahmed
Arab Times Staff

AMITABH BACHCHAN — a phenomenon? Perhaps. He came, he conquered and he still reigns supreme — despite some of the worst flops in Bombay film history: Ganga Jamuna Saraswati, Jadugar and Toofan.

Amitabh bounces back. His charisma is undeniable. No other film star has that "extra something" that makes Amitabh special. His co-stars look at him in awe; his fans go ga-ga over him but the star himself shares a camaraderie with co-workers that is one of the focal points of a documentary entitled "Follow that Star".

It's a delightful experience, as you see some aspects of the complexities that make the man and the star.

Contrary to his "angry young man" image in movies, the actor has an innate, bubbly sense of humour that rubs off on his co-workers. The funny streak, however, was apparent in several characters he played like Antony, in Amar, Akbar, Anthony and the less successful Toofan, in which he plays a magician. And

following his father's advice, he says he believes in "Jumping over the wall".

But it is the intense look in his eyes that captivates the audience as he utters seriously: "I don't know if I am making good films or bad films. But I have the chance..."

It was the chance he got in Zanjeer that catapulted him to fame. He recalls: "When I left home in the morning, no one knew me. By the end of the day, my face was being recognised." This was after his second film, Anand, was released.

From his first film Saat Hindustani to Agneepath, the star has come a long way; yet he still wears the mantle of the anti-hero image: brash and bold, fighting the system against all odds.

Screenwriter Javed Akhtar, directors Manmohan Desai, Mukul Anand and others also talk about the star they have projected on the screen.

Javed Akhtar explains: "He came at a time when people had lost faith in the system — and so screen, they saw someone fighting like they wanted to. And the idea clicked." It seems that this holds true even today judging from the excerpts of his

forthcoming films Akayla and Khuda Gawah, to name a few.

The non-controversial documentary also talks about his near fatal accident on the sets of Coolie and his unsuccessful foray into politics. Amitabh admits: "I don't know much about politics". But he regrets having to desert his constituents mid-way during his term.

And his fans? "After all, we are here because they come to see us," says Amitabh, as he wows them and leaves them with autographs. Not surprisingly, one of his under 10 fans says: "He's No. 1. We love him".

Will you come to know the star? As his wife, Jaya Bachchan puts it: "No one, but no one can ever claim he knows Amit". Follow the star is a must for all Amitabh fans.

Mr Yogi

Ketan Mehta's 12-episode television Mr Yogi is a satire on the "marriage market" in India.

"I am Y.I. Patel," he tells any one who listens. Everyone wants to listen. Mr Yogi is a green-card holder, an American-return-

ing Indian offering the best in life to his would-be bride. There is no dearth of girls — they fall over him. And he falls under their spell but fails to meet the right girl. His comic capers lead him from one disastrous "marriage interview" to another, until he is exhausted. Some girls throw up on him; another wants to cuddle him; one is prepared to run away with him, a businesswoman offers him a "marriage partnership" and he visualises himself running at "Her Master's Voice".

Does Mr Yogi get the girl of his dreams? Or does he succumb to the charms of the "foreign hand"? Mr Yogi's American girlfriend Peggy turns him down. "I love you but marriage, no way," she tells him. The 12 girls he is lured with go their own way. So, what happens to Mr Yogi? It ends predictably enough but the silly capers of Mr Yogi's quest for a wife are watchable.

Om Puri plays the Satyagrah (narrator), often playing truant with Mr Yogi's plans. The title role is played by Mohn Gokhale. The above videocassettes are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St, Farwaniya, Tel: 471-2900; Falcon Video, Alhadiya and Canary Video, Fisheries Bldg, Sharq.

Amadeus Chamber Orchestra

THE Amadeus Chamber Orchestra was founded by Agnieszka Duczmal in Poznan in 1968, first as a chamber orchestra called "Pro Musica" and sponsored by Jeunesses Musicales and the Poznan Music Society. ACO started performing frequently in Poland and abroad, and the climax of those events was the Silver Medal of the Herbert von Karajan Foundation won at the Meeting of Young Orchestras in West Berlin in 1976. The Orchestra, acting in the frame of and employed by the Polish Radio and Television from 1977, has been giving many concerts in eighteen European countries as well as in the USA, Canada, Mexico and Brazil, playing often with famous... (e.g. Maurice Andre, Gary Karr, Henryk Szeryng, Malcolm Messiter). Only within 1985-1988 it performed in Queen Elizabeth Hall (London), Konserthuset (Stockholm), Rachmaninoff Hall (Moscow), Concertgebouw (Amsterdam) and Munich Philharmony. It played also at number

of Festivals (e.g. Cita di Castello, Evian, Ceryentino, Brighton, "Warsaw Autumn", or "Festival of Krzysztof Penderecki's Music"). Apart from concert activity, Amadeus Chamber Orchestra makes regular radio recordings. Over 70 hours of music, ranging from baroque up to the contemporary one, has been recorded for the Polish Radio. ACO collaborates also with broadcasting companies abroad like WDR in Köln, NDR in Hamburg, BBC in London, CBC in Montreal, Mexican radio network Holland, Hungary, GDR, West Berlin to mention but a few. It recorded for Polish, English, American, Brazilian, Italian and West German gramophone record manufacturers. In 1985 the orchestra was awarded the diploma of the Polish Minister for Foreign Affairs for the promotion of the Polish culture abroad, and in 1987, Crystal Stage for the most interesting concert of the 1985-1986 season in Limburg, West Germany.

Hyderabad turns 400

THE Hyderabad community in Kuwait has decided to celebrate the 400 year anniversary of the city of Hyderabad, India, in mid-May. This was decided at a preliminary meeting held by a group of Hyababadios on Feb 22.

The celebrations will be held on a grand scale, befitting the proud tradition of Hyderabad.

A working committee has been formed in Kuwait preliminary preparations to celebrate 400 years of Hyderabad City at a meeting held on Feb 22 at the home of Mohammad Nasseeruddin. It was attended by Hyderabadis from various walks of life. They unanimously approved the proposals to form a working committee and five sub-committees to oversee the preparations. The celebrations are likely to be held sometime in the second week of May 1990.

Some prominent Hyderabad personalities are expected to be invited. Many participants stressed the need to celebrate the ceremony on a grand scale, befitting the proud tradition of Hyderabad culture so that the coming generation could see the true portrayal and values.

Further information about the celebration can be obtained from Mohammad Nasseeruddin on Mubammad Nasseeruddin or Murtaza — tel: 4736958/5633880 respectively.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news and varieties
9.50 Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Shaba Min Al Madbi: Arabic Serial (part 13)
11.30 Al Waad: Weekly Beduin serial (final part), starring: Mohammed Alabadi, Sahar Sami and Yousif Al Jamal
12.25 News summary
12.30 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Saham Al Fadh: Cartoon serial
5.15 Spencer: Arabic children serial (part 5)
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Wa Qala Hakeem: historical serial
7.00 Varieties
7.15 Popular Arts: local programme
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Television network: Local variety programme

KTV 2

MORNING

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Scooby Doo: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Danger Bay
7.00 International Outdoorsman "Universal Trap Shooting" Action-packed outdoor, live-action adventures that circles the globe, captivating the universal family audience...
7.30 Growing Pains: "In Carol We Trust" Mike advises Carol to tell lies about her absence from home but what is the result of telling lies?...

EVENING

8.00 News in English
8.30 Miami Vice: Over The Line. Cooper and his police mate meet a gang who allege that they are fighting against criminals... But Cooper has to reveal their secret aims...
9.30 The Science Edition: The physical fitness and sport practices... Voice waves and traffic system... Truck Radar... Telephone importance and how it works...
10.00 Cine Club: Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz "The Seven Samurai" Starring: Toshirō Mifune, Takashi Shimura 16th-century villagers hire Samurai to defend their property against an annual raid by bandits

KTV 3

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 4

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 5

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 6

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 7

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 8

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 9

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 10

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 11

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 12

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 13

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 14

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 15

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 16

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 17

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 18

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 19

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 20

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 21

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 22

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 23

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 24

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 25

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 26

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 27

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 28

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 29

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Shukri Sarhan, Suad Husni, Ahmad Ramzi and Yousif Fakhr Al Deen
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 30

MORNING

1.15 Holy Quran and closedown
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING

10.15 Ashab Saghira: local serial (part 12)
11.15 Al Ashbiya Al Thalabta: Arabic feature film, starring: Sh

BLONDIE

By Bob Thompson



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dick Brown



AGATHA CRUM

By Bill Dyer



BEETLE BAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Mike Stiller



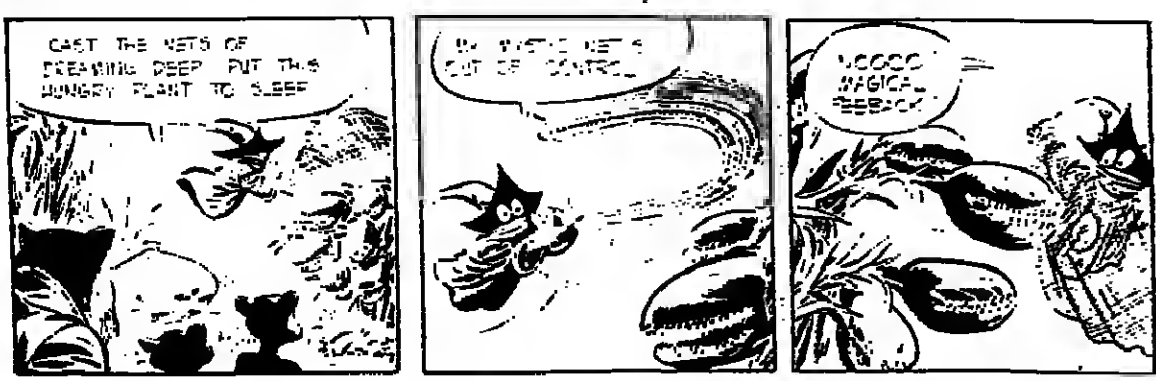
ANDY CAPP



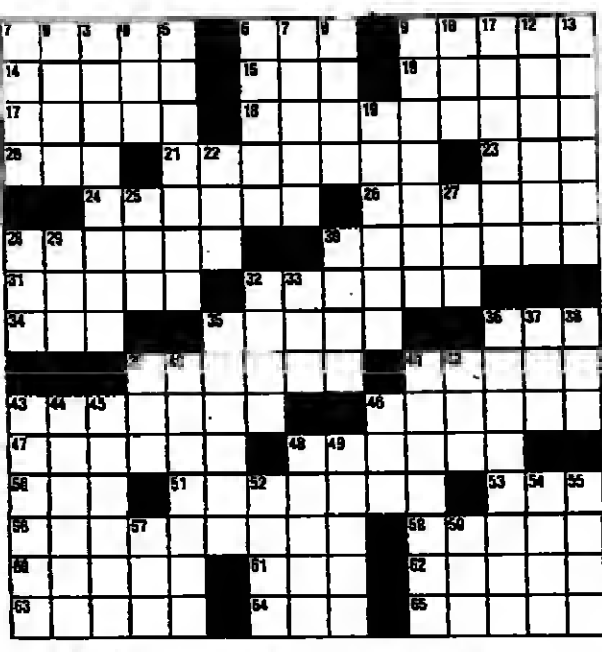
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Joyner-Karsse, for one
 - 6 Vehicle
 - 9 Canadian wild goose
 - 14 "Lovely as —"
 - 15 Dined
 - 16 Exterior
 - 17 Long Island or Pugat
 - 18 Stamp collecting
 - 20 Finial
 - 21 British title
 - 23 Work for ads.
 - 24 Mariner
 - 28 "Short and stout" container
 - 28 Bakas eggs
 - 30 Snake-haired slither of myth
 - 31 Chinese province
 - 32 Complain
 - 34 Inche, with "on"
 - 35 Lineman's call in tennis
 - 36 Status —
 - 39 Did a publishing job
 - 41 Gushes
 - 43 Inform
 - 46 Briny
 - 47 Most virtuous
 - 48 Old world prickly herb
 - 50 Historic beginning
 - 51 Ersatz gem
 - 53 Color or cycle starter
 - 56 Oilers' arena
 - 58 Dostoyevski novel, with "The"
 - 60 Pear-shaped instruments
 - 61 Pro —
 - 62 Clergyman's residence
 - 63 Philippine Island
 - 64 Room in a
- DOWN
- 55 Lawn trimmer
 - 1 Demolish, Brit. style
 - 2 Above
 - 3 Taking the waters, in a way
 - 4 Poetic contraction
 - 5 Colorful rural vase
 - 8 Sugar. Suffix
 - 9 Prior to, in poetry
 - 40 Settle a matter, at last
 - 41 Diversion
 - 42 Cheer for a matador
 - 43 Shock
 - 44 Follow doggedly
 - 45 Easy on the eyes
 - 46 — Paulo, Brazil
 - 48 Clocks a race
 - 49 Plant disease
 - 52 Paper's pic. section
 - 54 Stalin bloom
 - 55 Charlotte's way
 - 57 Soak flax
 - 59 June honoree

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

TEAR LORDS ASPS
ANTE INURE GALA
POOL BEGAN DRAN
ASPIRES ISSUING
AIR INEPT
STANDARD AIDS
HURT TEE DISARM
OLE GELATIN CED
TINTED LEV SICK
SPAWN ALTERNATE
IRONY RED
POWDERY ITERATE
ARID MOIRE KEEP
CALL ENTER ERNE
ELLE REEDS LOIDE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
THE WINING DEFENSE

Both vulnerable: South deals.
NORTH
♠ A 10 3
♥ 10 6
♦ 10 6 5
♣ A J 9 7 5
WEST
♠ Void
♥ K Q 8 7 3
♦ Q 7 4 3 2
♣ 6 4 2
EAST
♠ 8 6
♥ A J 4 2
♦ K J 9
♣ K Q 10 8

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 9 7 5 4 2
♥ 9 5
♦ A 8
♣ 3

The bidding:
South West North East
4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass

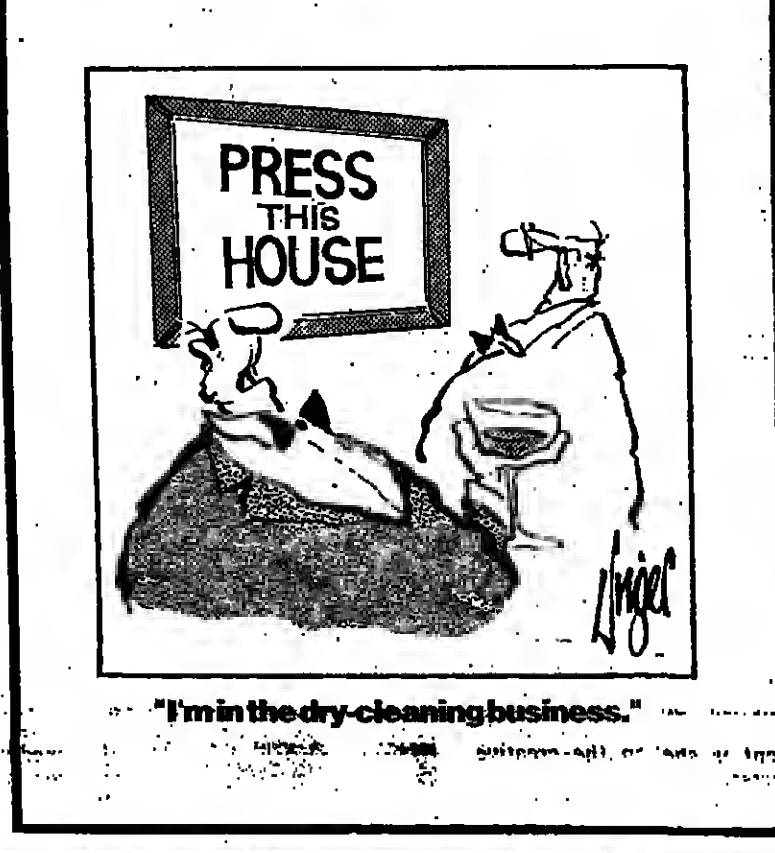
Opening lead: King of ♥
The doyen of English bridge writers, and someone who could justifiably lay claim to being the greatest, is Terence Reese. We were fascinated by this hand he contributed to the bi-monthly *Bridge Today*. The final contract of five spades is close to par for the hand. Note that five hearts will make except in the unlikely event that North hits

upon the ace of clubs for his opening lead (or a diamond and South shifts to a club) and gives partner a ruff.

After the defense starts with two rounds of hearts it might seem declarer should make the contract. Suppose East shifts to the king of clubs. Declarer wins and ruffs a club high, leads any trump but the deuce to the ten and ruffs another club, then crosses to the ace of spades, again preserving the two-spot, to ruff a third club, which establishes the long club. Declarer still has access to the table by using the magic two of trumps to the three as the entry, and South's diamond loser goes away on the good club.

Shifting to a diamond is no better. Declarer wins and proceeds to establish the club, as above. And a ruff-shuff simply saves declarer a lot of work.

The winning defense is to return a trump at trick three. That deprives declarer of one of his dummy entries before it can be put to any use. South can still set up a long club, but there is no way to get to the table to enjoy that winner. Declarer will have to concede a diamond for down one.



YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 19

You are liable to be caught off guard so try to pay better attention. You will have something to look forward to. At first some small obstacle will seem like a great impediment but soon you will see it is not. Be moderate.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You are more liable to mislay things and should take steps to prevent this from happening. Do not try to use force where charm and persuasion has failed. Avoid getting into an argument or caricature yourself from it if you do.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You should try not to be long-winded, better to be short and to the point. A letter should not be left unanswered for too long. Do not place too much reliance on your memory it is not as good as it has been. Be tactful.

Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You will be able to do a friend a good turn and he will be grateful. You should avoid making any promises that would be hard to keep. Nor should you say anything that you are not sure about as if you were. Be fair.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You are more liable to get into bad habits, but there is still time to stop this from happening. You will be able to do something to stimulate your flagging interest in a matter. Make sure you do not take love for granted. Be more patient.

Leo
July 21 - Aug. 22

Do not insist on having your own way in all things. If you do you will only succeed in antagonizing people. Make sure you do not do anything that you well know is bad for your health. Be realistic.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

A problem that has been causing you trouble can be resolved: not the right solution, but it will work. You will be able to reach an understanding with someone you do not much care for. You will know better how to use a new device.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You will be able to do something to increase harmony with your partner. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 36. You are liable to repeat yourself and should do all you can to avoid doing so.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

Try to see things from other people's point of view, too. Better work intensely for a shorter period than haphazardly for a longer period. Make sure you do not let a friend down. Be resourceful.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You will be in high spirits and must not allow your exuberance to impel you to do something silly. Avoid having too many late nights in succession. Also avoid having heavy meals late at night. Be generous.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You should make sure others have understood what you have said as well as that you have understood what they have said. Do not neglect your personal affairs. Make sure that all lights are switched off and no taps are left running before you go to bed. Be sensible.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

You are rather more prone to infection and should do all you can to take precautions. However do not become dominated by health fads. You would do well to spend more time reading less watching television. Be amenable.



LAUREL LITA

VARIETY

Abbott and Costello

Living in the hearts of fans



1940s comedy duo Bud Abbott and Lou Costello in scenes from a compilation of their TV sketches, *The Best of Abbott and Costello Live*

As Abbott and Costello achieve cult status in America, Carolyn is holding a lone torch for Lou in Britain. The comic duo were the classic comedy team in the 1940s and after working together for 25 years, they became America's No. 1 box office names...

CAROLYN LANZA has fallen in love — with a movie star who has been dead for 30 years. She spends all her spare time, and most of her cash on the man of her dreams, Lou Costello, the chubby, cheeky half of the American comedy duo Abbott and Costello.

Bachelor-grrl Carolyn, a 33-year-old garage cashier from Horley, Surrey says: "I'm just crazy about him. He's my heart-throb. Life just wouldn't be the same without him."

Carolyn's obsession with the zany comedian is so strong that she knows all his routines off by heart. She even made her best friend, Lynne, tattoo Lou Costello on her forearm.

Interest in Abbott and Costello, the wise-cracking comedy duo who rose from their vaudeville stage act to top the cinema billings in the early 1940s, has been sparked anew in America, following the hit movie, *Rain Man*.

In the Oscar-winning film, Dustin Hoffman plays an autistic, who keeps repeating the words of *Who's on First?* Abbott and Costello's most famous routine, but alerted to feature football when they came to London.

Revival

Chris Costello, aged 38, Lou's daughter, who has her own public relations firm, told me: "I've always believed that Abbott and Costello would see a revival when the time was right. And that film was the best promotion we could have had."

"I'm receiving sackloads of mail, most of it from people in their 20s and 30s, who are discovering Abbott and Costello for the first time."

"The families of Lou and Bud have started an international fan club, based in New York. And we're producing T-shirts, statuettes and videos. We also have a special compilation of material from their TV shows, that we found in the family vaults."

But as Abbott and Costello start to achieve cult status in America, Carolyn is holding a lone torch for Lou in Britain. She is the first, and only, member of the Abbott and Costello fan club in the country.

She writes regularly to Chris Costello in Hollywood, and is saving hard to go out and visit her. It would thrill Carolyn just to walk on the same ground that Lou Costello once trod.

Carolyn lives alone with her kitten, Lesley, at the top of the tower block. She told me: "It all started about three years ago when there were some old Abbott and Costello films on TV. I was just hooked. Lou was so cute, that I fell in love there and then."

"It's the way he looks, as well as the jokes he tells. Sometimes I wish I could go back to 1941 because I know he would have been the perfect man for me."

Carolyn spends hours every week, watching her heartthrob on video. She says she "likes to be with him a little every day."

Collection

She has a huge collection of pictures, picked up on regular expeditions to film libraries in London. Her sitting room is dominated by a huge poster of Costello. And, on the table she has a model of him, which she painted herself.

Carolyn's collection isn't worth a fortune — because she doesn't have the money to buy the really valuable memorabilia.

But no-one could be a more devoted fan of Lou Costello than she is. She even takes tape-recordings of his routines to the garage with her, so that she can hear his voice as she works.

Carolyn says with a big grin: "My friends at work call me Bud, because they say I'm never apart from Costello. I fantasise about meeting him all the time. I blow kisses at him when I'm watching the telly."

"I'll buy anything to do with Lou. I've even bought books just because there's one little picture of him inside. And I write letters to the TV stations trying to persuade them to show more Abbott and Costello films."

"It's going to take me three years to save enough money to go to the States. But it'll be worth it just to go to the film studios and see where he worked."

Carolyn only wishes there were more Abbott and Costello fans in Britain. She would like to be able to talk to people who know as much about the famous duo as she does. She says: "I've read all the biographies and learned all about their lives. And Lou was just the sort of man I knew he would be."

"He was extremely kind and selfless, and did an awful lot of charity work. He wasn't the biggest romantic in the world, but he was very affectionate."

"It would be good to talk about him with other people, but I'm quite happy here because I know I'm not on my own. I don't live alone. I've got the cat, and I've got Lou."

Bud Abbott and Lou Costello were the classic comedy team, with the thin, slick straight man Bud, and the fat, child-like cherubic Lou. They took their routines from the stage to the big

screen, working together for over 25 years, and becoming America's No. 1 box office names.

They met in 1931 in a Brooklyn theatre. Abbott was selling tickets for the show, and Costello, already an established comedian, found himself without a straight man when his partner fell ill. The rest, as they say, is history.

They made more than 30 movies together, twice saving Universal Pictures from bankruptcy, with *Buck Private* and *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein*. Then they took to TV, both in filmed series and in live show for *The Colgate Comedy Hour*.

Chris Costello says: Despite their popularity, the critics of the day compared them unfavourably with Laurel and Hardy. And Abbott and Costello never got the sort of recognition their clever, cross-talking routines deserved.

But now, with their children clubbing together to cope with the new interest in Abbott and Costello, the famous double act seems to be enjoying — at last — the kind of critical success they never achieved when they were alive.

Abbott retired in 1957, and died of cancer in 1974. Costello worked until 1959, when he died of a heart attack.

But now they are both alive and making the world laugh again...because of their children's dedication to their memory, and the 1980s magic of video.

For more information about the Abbott and Costello fan club, write to: PO Box 2084, Toluca Lake Station, North Hollywood, California 91602, USA.



Carolyn Lanza with her hand-painted model of her heartthrob, Lou Costello

Keeper of world's endangered species

Durrell's Zoo

TRINITY, Channel Islands, (AP): Naturalist Gerald Durrell is keeper of the world's most comprehensive collection of endangered species.

His zoo aims to protect the animals by breeding them in captivity and returning their offspring to the wild.

On 25 beautifully landscaped acres (10 hectares) of Jersey, the main island of the English Channel archipelago, the zoo tries to recreate natural settings for its charges.

It also serves as a training ground for interns from all over the world to promote animal survival in their own countries.

The zoo's symbol is the dodo, the flightless, turkey-like bird of Mauritius that became extinct in the 1690s.

"Extinction is forever," says the zoo's motto.

"We are not trying to maintain a living museum," said Anthony Allchurch, the zoo's general administrator. "We have a job to do. If it happens that the public is interested in what we're doing, that's great."

Founded in 1959, the zoo started out as a place where Durrell kept the animals he collected during his expeditions. Four years later, he formed the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust as a registered charity.

"The release of animals back into their natural habitat is the ultimate goal for each of the species that we so carefully nurture," Durrell has said.

Documentaries

The white-bearded, 64-year-old Briton lives in Les Augres Manor on the zoo grounds with his American wife Lee, but was travelling and unavailable for an interview.

Durrell's books have been published in 26 languages. The best known is "My Family and Other Animals," about his childhood on the Greek island of Corfu. He also has produced

numerous television documentaries about animals.

The zoo concentrates on six major geographical areas: northern India and Nepal, southeastern Brazil, Mexico, the Caribbean, Madagascar, and the Mascarene Islands in the Indian Ocean.

It works closely with governments, wildlife groups, and other zoos, like the National Zoo in Washington DC.

"If we didn't work with government support and blessing, we wouldn't achieve half of what we do," Allchurch said.

The first animals that the zoo returned home were 14 pink pigeons which were placed in a botanical garden in the Mascarene island of Mauritius in 1984.

Three years later, the zoo placed pink pigeons in an area of native forest which hadn't been inhabited by these birds for 10 years. To date, 19 have been returned to the wilderness, and, significantly, two have been born there.

"We don't befriend, socialize, train or handle animals, to enhance their chance of surviving the wild. If they ever get there," Allchurch said.

Training

The zoo also sent Jamaican Hutias, large brown rodents, back to their island, and is returning kestrels to Mauritius.

"A lot of rare animals are dull and brown. But two dull brown parrots with a baby are very exciting," Allchurch said.

The zoo also has been a partner in programmes to return golden lion tamarins to Brazil, Bali starlings to Indonesia and thick-billed parrots to Arizona.

In 1978, the trust established its training programme, which has educated some 250 trainees from more than 40 countries. Many already have had veterinary training, and they spend two to four months at the zoo.

A veteran artist at 14

WASHINGTON, D.C. (WNL): Away at home in southern China, 14-year-old Wang Yani has more than 10,000 paintings rolled up and waiting to be exhibited. She does not keep track of what she has finished, so intent is she on the creative process.

She does not seem to care either about being famous, or about the praise showered on her by adults lucky enough to have seen some of the superbly enticing works she perfects with so little effort, or so it seems.

A minute part of her art has been shown since she was four, but the Sackler Gallery in Washington, D.C., held a retrospective titled *Yani: The Brush of Innocence* including her latest works and going back to lifelike drawings in ink that she did when she was three. The exhibit, also includes workshops for children interested in the technique of painting on paper with ink and colour. Invited to Washington for the show, Yani met her fans, and had to shake so many hands that her arm was burning, she said.

During Yani's show, the number of visitors to the museum has doubled, said Mary Patton, public affairs specialist for the Sackler Gallery. Among them were thousands of children.

"They are amazed at Yani's age," Patton added. One 5th-grader commented that Yani's work convinced him he should try an idea he had had to build a solar-powered phonograph, while a young girl noted that adults don't give children enough credit for talent and intelligence, and that it's great that Yani is a genius and still a child.

In a world where children often bypass the joys of childhood to become entangled in the worries of adults or fall prey to the lure of drugs, violence and sexuality, Yani retains an amazing innocence. Thin and small for her age, she wore jeans, a colourful blouse and a demure expression easily mistaken for shyness. In fact the unruffled facade she



At 14, Wang Yani with her father

Yani was 8. Her father, also a painter, used to work with oils but has abandoned his craft to devote himself to his daughter's artistic development.

The family of four — Yani has a younger brother — lives in a medium-sized city in the Guangxi Province. "Our house is between two temples and behind there is a mountain," Yani explains, with excitement in her voice as she describes the marvels of home: "We have lots of flowers in our yard and we raise quite a few animals as pets. I have a monkey, three cats, one rooster, one canary, one turtle, four gold fish and a dog," which is good because she does not have much time to go to the zoo now to watch the creatures that remain her main source of inspiration.

Unmistakably, her eye is that of an artist. She does not remember from her world travels what would strike other children. It's the colours that she enjoys — the green of the grass and the red roofs in West Germany, the green lawns in America, but in Washington the grass is getting brown, she notes. From the Western art museums she visited she remembers mostly an early Picasso, very colourful.

Speaking through an interpreter, she says that she is learning English, but she can't speak very well yet. And she does not take art classes at school, since the day when the art teacher painted a painting she had done. Seeing her very unhappy, her father decided she did not need lessons.

Asked whether she has considered selling some of her paintings — at the moment none has been sold, except a few pieces given to Chinese officials and which were sold on the black market — Yani says it's up to her father, sitting near her, to answer. "I believe that she should sell her paintings, it's a way to let people see her art," he comments, "but we have to find an appropriate time and situation."

Meanwhile, the world of childhood is still open to her: she embellishes it and let's us share in her vibrant vision.

Her favourite subjects — monkeys, birds, flowers — are commonly found in Chinese art, but however graceful they are, traditional Chinese paintings also on display at the Sackler Gallery seem stilted when compared to Yani's spontaneous creations. "I like to paint people, birds, gold fish," she says, adding that she sometimes starts by throwing the brush on the paper and improving from the marks made. Her father gave her the idea by trying it once when they were working together on a painting in front of an audience in Shanghai.



"The Lion is awake", an ink and colour painting by Yani when she was nine



Mitchum: new role

Robert Mitchum

Dramatic switch to small screen

LOS ANGELES, (Reuter): Robert Mitchum looks bored. He sprawls in his chair and looks as if he is back playing private investigator Philip Marlowe, waiting to be beaten up on page 20 of the script.

"Are you still getting the hard-boiled detective roles," a reporter asks.

The heavily lidded eyes flicker. "Well, not for the last two days I haven't," Mitchum says.

"Why are you doing a television series?"

"That's what I do for a living. I'm a professional actor. Meat is meat."

"Why a television series now?"

"Nobody ever asked me before."

"You never got any scripts?"

"Okay, I lied."

Mitchum, the star of more than 100 films, has made a dramatic switch in his career and, at 72, will star in his first half-hour television series, portraying a cantankerous old man who is befriended by four orphaned children.

The NBC network describes the series, *Regular Joe*, as a light-hearted family comedy about a homeless curmudgeon.

Mitchum, a well-read man who has written film scripts, music and poetry, had been brought to a news conference to publicise the series.

He is at ease talking on any subject as long as the subject is not Robert Mitchum.

"Mr Mitchum, do you watch any situation comedies?"

"No."

"Mr Mitchum, how long since you've done comedy?"

"Oh, probably *The Grass is Greener*, I think."

"When was that?"

"I have no idea," Mitchum mutters.

"Mitchum allows that he is confident he will not have to work the long hours demanded of many television series.

"Not if you're working with children," he said with a trace of a smile. "The social department won't permit them to work too long."

Mitchum also lets on that one of the things he likes about appearing in *Regular Joe* is that he will not have to wear makeup.

"I don't think I've worn makeup in 99 per cent of my film appearances," he said. "As long as they don't have to put a scar on me or turn my hair green I don't wear makeup."

Mitchum, who has earned the reputation — despite his repeated denials — of being one of the best actors in Hollywood, becomes more animated when he is asked how he prepared himself for his role as a homeless person.

"I had a little experience in those conditions myself," he remembered. "I was 15 years old. They had a ready answer then for the homeless. They gave me 180 days on a chain gang."

"We'll find a home for you, boy," they said."

"I was without a home and broke. As far as they were concerned I was a dangerous and suspicious character with no visible means of support. I was in Chatham County, Georgia."

"I left home because there was no room at the table. I didn't make a head count. I just took off because there wasn't enough to go round. I felt I might alleviate the situation if I made myself scarce."

"I think it cost them 38 cents a day to feed and house you at the time and they reared you out for two dollars and 50 cents a day. That was the answer then to the homeless."

Mitchum jumped on a freight train and headed for Hollywood — and stardom. He has been married to the same woman, the former Dorothy Spence, for 50 years and they have three children.

Asked if he has any favourite roles, Mitchum pauses.

"I was asked to play Admiral Halsey in a picture called *Midway*, he said. "I asked the producer how long the role would last. He said, 'It's one day in bed.' I said: 'You got it.'"

Mitchum also recalls turning down roles that made other stars famous.

"I never had second thoughts about it," he said. "I turned down *Paton*, for instance, and suggested George C. Scott to play the general."

"They first offered the script of *Dirty Harry* to Frank Sinatra, then to me, then to Bill Cosby and, finally, to Clint Eastwood. And I'm just as happy for him."

Mitchum is asked how he approaches his work as an actor.

"You go to work and you do it."

"Do you enjoy it?"

"Sure," he says as he heads for the door.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

KEEP TRACK OF SYMPTOMS BEFORE AND AFTER FAINTING SPELLS

QUESTION: Just 38 years young, I consider myself to be in good health except that I am plagued by frequent fainting spells. Can you explain the possible causes and advise me what I might do about this?

ANSWER: Fainting is a common, seemingly mysterious problem. Despite its frequency, it is never something to be lightly shrugged off.

Temporary loss of consciousness (syncope) occurs in perhaps 47 percent of presumably healthy adults. Syncope can usually be divided into three basic categories — about 25 percent are due to heart abnormalities, another 25 percent are caused by conditions other than cardiac disease, and approximately 50 percent are of unknown origin.

I presume your doctor has performed all tests to determine that you do not have a heart disease. With that cause eliminated, he or she probably will explore other possible reasons for your fainting. It could be caused by hunger, overcrowded living areas, fatigue, stress, or certain types of pain.

For complete diagnosis, your physician needs a history of what occurs before and during your fainting. Knowing how long the "spell" lasts also is necessary information. You should keep a diary of events that preceded a fainting spell, including how intense any symptoms or feelings were and their duration. Record if you fainted immediately following a change in your body position, or a hard coughing spasm, urination or defecation, or heavy alcohol usage.

Sometimes weakness, sweating, and nausea precede fainting attacks. Dizziness, blurred vision or a rapid fall in blood pressure can result from standing in one position too long.

Getting up suddenly may result in fainting. Also, because of some prescription or over-the-counter drugs you may be using, your pulse rate could be severely reduced, which can cause syncope. In any case, fainting presents a real diagnostic challenge to doctors. Providing all this information will help pinpoint the causes. The important first step to correcting the situation.

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW: With one in six American couples affected by problems of infertility during their reproductive years, and the fear of infertility driving thousands of others to spend their money on infertility workups, it is not surprising to learn that almost \$1 billion was spent in 1987 to cope with these problems.

But there may be some simple things you can do on your own to help improve the odds of becoming pregnant or to determine if you really need help, according to an informative booklet authored by Maurice Cohen, M.D., assistant professor of clinical gynecology and obstetrics at the state University of New York, and Jeffrey M. Spicler, B.S., M.S., M.P.H., titled "A Natural Approach to Conception" and covers such topics as your biological time clock, pre-conception planning, sexual behaviour, nutrition and lifestyle and how to reduce stress. A section on "fertility awareness" can be just the answer to your problem.

You may obtain this booklet without cost by sending a stamped, self-addressed, business-size envelope, and your request directly to: Fertility Awareness Information Centre, Dept. K, P.O. Box 797, Deepack, New York 11729. You will receive a well-written, well-illustrated, 14-page booklet for your effort.

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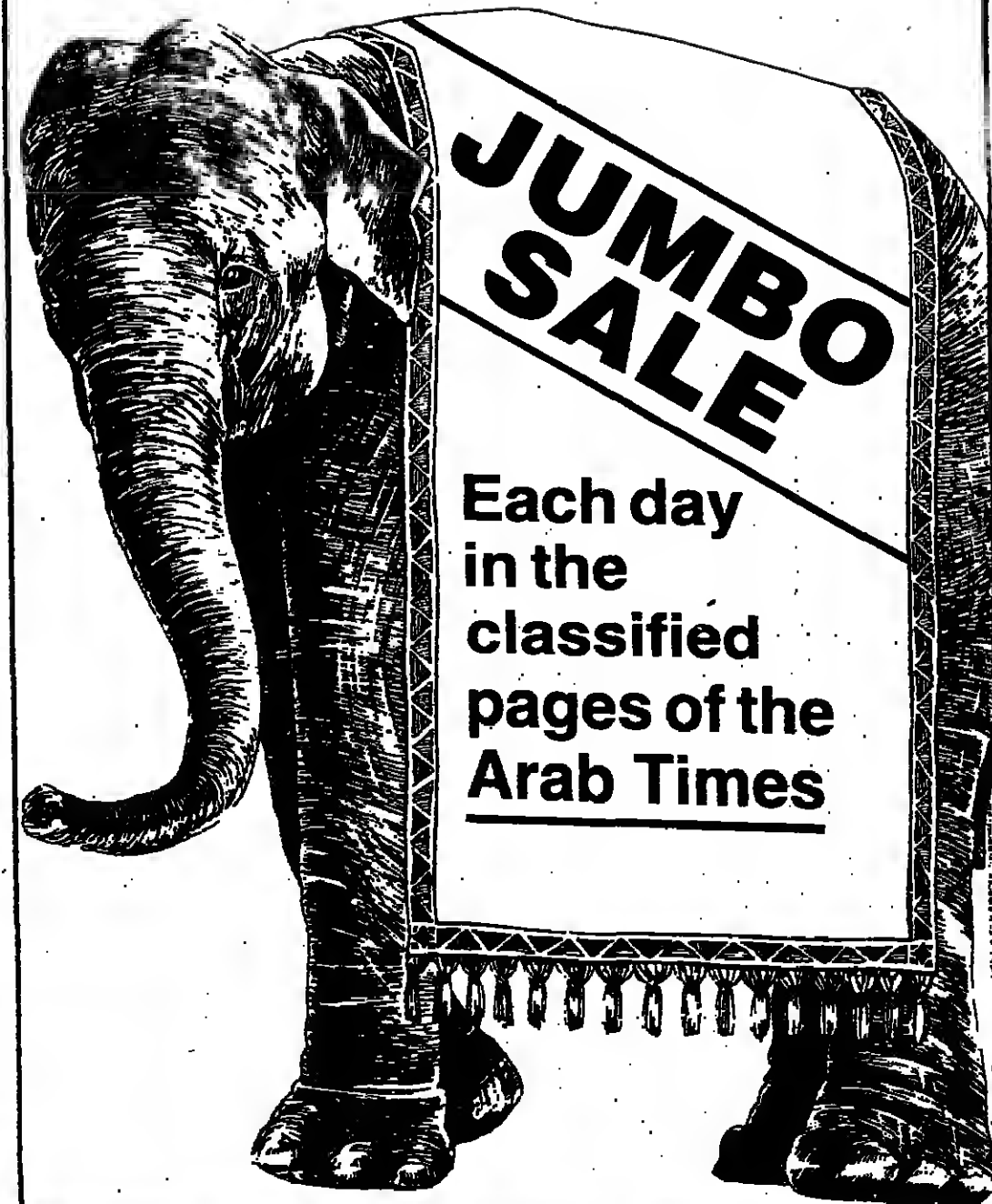
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KU edge Bazookas, go down to Eagles

IN two make-up KISL games on Friday, Kuwait University barely got by the fired-up All-Japan Bazookas, 20-19, and then was trounced by the hot-hitting Eagles, 19-11. The two games saw a total of 68 runs and 70 hits. Special thanks go to KISL president Lubien Quinones and Falcons coach Monte Symons for offering to come out to umpire both games on their holiday.

In the opener, All-Japan led all the way and seemed to win, taking a 19-11 lead into the bottom of the seventh. But a line drive off the hand of pitcher Nakano by hard-hitting lead-off hitter Ed Smith in the seventh was followed by an error and five consecutive walks to help spark KU to its comeback.

The Bazookas scored in five of seven innings, seeming to put the game away in the fifth with seven runs and in the seventh with three. But KU scored five in the sixth before the nine in the seventh to take out its fourth victory.

Leading hitters for All-Japan were Saitoh (double, 2 singles), Nishimura (3 singles, 3 singles), Saitoh (double, triple), Shimada (triple, double, 2 singles), and Hiramatsu (triple, 2 singles). RBIs were evenly spread throughout the line-up. In the fifth the Bazookas batted around, scoring seven after two were out. Singles by Nakano, Shiba and Hiramatsu loaded the bases with one out, and former All-Japan coach Watanabe was forced at home for the second out. Before Saitoh walked, coach Aoki singled in two. Nishimura singled in one, clean-up hitter Saitoh tripled home two, and slugger Shimada singled.

The KU attack was led by Smith (3 singles), Jassin Yacoub (3 singles, walk), Charlie Campbell (single, 2 walks), Mike Anderson (triple, 2 walks), Hadi Al-Ghailaf (2 singles), and slugger Karl Anderson (home, single). KU's turnaround fifth inning featured Yacoub and Campbell's leadoff singles, Mike Anderson's one-out triple, Al-Ghailaf's second RBI single, and Karl Anderson's over-the-fence homer to left. The KU seventh-inning rally featured four RBI walks in a row and RBI singles from Karl Anderson, Dave Checkie and Smith's second of the inning to bring home Jassin Yacoub with the game-winner.

KU started the second game in similar fashion, batting around in the second to open an early 8-2 lead over the Eagles. With one out, Campbell walked, Clarence Jabs singled, Mike Anderson walked to load the bases, Jim Thames walked to force home one, Hadi Al-Ghailaf singled in two, Jassin Yacoub singled to reload the bases, Checkie singled home two, Smith hit a sacrifice fly, clean-up hitter Karl Anderson singled home two, Doug Clark singled home one, and Jassin Yacoub singled.

In the fourth Smith homered to right centre. In the fifth KU's final two came on Campbell's leadoff single, one-out singles from Mike Anderson and Vic Mason, and Al-Ghailaf's sixth RBI of the day on a forceout.

The home-team Eagles racked up 23 hits as they scored in all six innings. Their two in the first came on a walk and an error and James Alderman's two-out 2-run double to deep centre. Their one in the second came on Jim Sheldad's leadoff single, Walter Rodriguez's double, Nat Howell's single and Gerre Andre's walk. Their run in the third came on consecutive one-out singles from pitcher and coach Al Rodler, Skip Stombaugh and Alderman. Dave Checkie then pulled off a fine double play, spearing Hal Leighton's liner and doubling up Alderman at second.

In the key fifth inning, Sheldad led off reaching on an error, before Dan Hudson doubled, and Rodriguez singled. With one out, the Eagles got consecutive singles from Andre, Dan Proctor, Jeff Jugar, Rodler, Stombaugh, Alderman and Leighton. Sheldad was again safe on an error, and Hudson and Rodriguez again singled.

To the fifth, Stombaugh singled home another. In the sixth the Eagles' final run came on leadoff singles from Leighton and Sheldad, an error to Rodriguez and Andre's two out single.

Amritraj forced to retire with injury

Krishnan routs Motta in opener

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 27. (Reuters) Ramesh Krishnan of India hoping to climb his way back up the tennis ladder, had an easy first step at the \$250,000 Memphis indoor tournament as he beat Brazilian Casio Motta 6-2 6-1 yesterday in the opening round.

The 16 seeds — headlined by Swede Stefan Edberg and American Michael Chang — all received byes into the second round.

Krishnan once ranked as high as 23, but has slipped to number 82. But the 28-year-old Indian claims he is ready to make his move back up.

"I'm playing quite well and I'm happy with my preparation," said Krishnan, who has won seven tournaments in his career. "I've been playing a lot of tournaments — a lot of matches. You cannot replace that with anything."

Krishnan will meet 15th-seeded American Jimmy Arias in the second round.

A compatriot of Krishnan's Vijay Amritraj, suffered a disappointing setback. Amritraj, 36, was leading 4-1 against 23-year-old American Brian Page when he twisted his ankle and had to retire.

Amritraj, who received a wildcard into the tournament, main-

tains a busy schedule, splitting his playing time between the regular tour and the over-35 circuit. He also serves as the ATP Tour player council president.

Still, his competitive fires burn.

Asked what he expects of himself when he takes the court against the younger pros, Amritraj replied: "I expect to win."

Chao, the French Open champion, returned to tennis yesterday for his first tournament since he suffered a bone fracture in his left hip in early December.

Chang made his 1990 debut playing doubles with fellow-American Jimmy Arias at the \$250,000-dollar Memphis indoor tournament. The duo lost their first-round match against Uruguayans Marcelo Filippini and Diego Perez 6-3 7-6.

Chang, who injured his hip while working out with former professional Brian Gottfried at the ATP Tour headquarters in Florida, says he is fit and ready to take on the tour.

"I feel I'm playing good tennis, but I lost a little speed," said Chang, who is seeded second in singles here and was scheduled to play his first match this evening.

Chang, who admitted to being a little nervous, said it might take



Krishnan brushed aside Motta

time to regain the strength in his legs. "I didn't do anything with my legs for nine weeks. I just worked on my upper body," he said.

Ranked ninth in the world, the 17-year-old Chang said he resisted rushing back to competition. He skipped two of his usual stops — Davis Cup in January and the

San Francisco event three weeks ago.

"I was on the conservative side about the injury," Chang said. "I wanted to get the right diagnosis and make sure it healed. A lot of players try to come back from injuries too early and do more damage."

Chang received a singles bye into the second round where he will face compatriot Gleco Layendecker.

"I'm going to try my best and if I lose early, I have to make sure it doesn't frustrate me," Chao said.

■ In Indian Wells, Calif., American Patty Fendick was the lone seed to fall on the opening day of the \$350,000 Indian Wells women's tennis tournament as she was eliminated by South African Amanda Coetzer 6-3 6-3 yesterday.

Four other seeds — American Gretchen Magers (10), Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden (13), West German Claudia Porwick (14) and Isabelle Demongeot of France (15) — advanced safely in this 56-player, hard court tournament.

The top eight players, including number one seed Martina Navratilova, winner of her first two tournaments this year, and second-seeded Cionchi Martinez of Spain, had first-round

byes.

The 16th-seeded Fendick's normally reliable serve deserted her against Coetzer.

Fendick, ranked 35th in the world, struggled in almost all her serve games, and Coetzer took advantage by keeping the ball in play as she broke Fendick's serve four times.

Fendick said the adjustment from indoors to outdoors may have affected her serve.

"I wasn't picking my toss up well. Usually, I know where the ball is, and today it was guess work," Fendick said.

■ And in Amsterdam, top-seeded American Brad Gilbert won a hard fought match last evening to progress to the second round of the \$745,000 world indoor tennis tournament in Rotterdam.

Gilbert beat unseeded Andrei Cherkasov of the USSR 7-5 4-6 6-4 in the first round match.

Last year's losing finalist Anders Jarryd of Sweden was stopped in the first round when he lost 2-6 2-4 to eighth-seeded Amos Mansdorf from Israel.

Sweden's Christian Bergstrom knocked out Australian John Fitzgerald in straight sets 7-6 6-3 while Dutchman Michiel Schapers went down to Dane Michael Tauson 6-7 5-7.

US baseball talks break off again

NEW YORK, Feb. 27. (Reuters) Labour talks between Major League baseball and the Players Association broke down yesterday, increasing the threat to the start of the regular season.

Yesterday's scheduled negotiating session was cancelled and union head Donald Fehr told a news conference that there was no reason to continue talks as there was no movement on the key issue of salary arbitration eligibility.

"We have not broken through at all, the less than three years' salary arbitration. There has been no new progress," Fehr said.

Players want the right to salary arbitration after two years while the owners of Major League clubs want to keep it at three years.

Fehr said he would meet owners' representatives when they come up with a substantive new offer.

Fehr also indicated that talks could remain on hold for two weeks while he and the players' negotiating team visited union representatives around the country to brief them on the negotiations.

While talks ground to a halt, baseball owners continued to lock players out of spring training camps for the 12th day.

Players have said they need at least three weeks to get into shape and the scheduled start of the regular season could be in jeopardy if the lockout continues past March 12.

Al Babbain: KPBL dark horse

The Arab Times will profile all the teams taking part in the Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL) every Wednesday. Today's team is Nissan Al Babbain.



The Nissan Al Babbain squad

THE Nissan Al-Babbain basketball team, the dark-horse team in this KPBL 1990-1991 Conference is composed of Solito Detera, Francisco Peres, Francis Garcia, Jus Delos-Reyes, Melchor Espinosa, Aba Edizon, Arturo Aquino, Joe Batac, Lee Quiambao, Bonnin Castillo, Rodel Peres, Jimmy Toledo, Francis Burgos, Marcelo Sapitan, Peter Flores, team manager-Zakki Brown, KPBL Board Of Governors Representative-Cris Prillo, and their Team Muse Ms Raquel Ayapana.

Zakki Brown-Zakki, the team manager is 34-years-old and works as a purchasing manager for the Nissan Al-Babbain Co. This Ethiopian loves basketball, and see KPBL as an excellent opportunity for his co-employees to relax from their daily work schedules. He also loves bowling.

Cris Prillo - This KPBL board member is a 28-year-old bachelor from Manila. He is currently employed by Citreon Co as driver. He has been in Kuwait for the past 7 years and he says that this is the first time for any such tournament to be held where priority and importance is given to the players and their fans as well.

Jojo Remorin - is a 29-year-old car painter for Citreon. In between his painting jobs, he is the coach of the Nissan Al-Babbain 5. This bachelor loves basketball and has been here in Kuwait since 1989.

Francisco Peres-Kiko hails from Batangas and works for Nissan Al-Babbain as a car polisher. He has been in Kuwait for the last 6 years, and was a member of DHL basketball team (1985) and Arahtel basketball team (1987) that took part in the KPK games.

Rodel Peres - This 27-year-old 5'11" forward is the team captain of the Nissan 5. He hails from Manila, and works as chief mechanic for the Babbain International Garage.

Solito Detera Jr. - This 5'10" center is an electrician for the Al-

Rai Cold Store. He is from Tanaun, Batangas.

Joe Batac - This 24-year-old car polisher, who plays the guard position, is from Pampanga. Still a bachelor, he stands 5'9", and loves boxing next to basketball.

Bonnie Castillo-Bonnie is from Occidental Mindoro. This 26-year-old 5'9" forward is a Service Staff for the Nissan Al Babbain Co. He is a BSN Commerce Graduate.

Peter Flores-Pedro 32 years old from Manila. He has been in Kuwait for the last 7 years and is currently working as a driver for Nissan. He loves basketball, softball, swimming and boxing. He hopes that the other sectors of the Filipino community here in Kuwait would be involved with KPBL as he believes, "it's just fine."

Marcelo Sapitanan-Hails from Imus, Cavite. He is in Kuwait for the last 6 years. Presently he is employed by Nissan. He plays the guard-forward

position for the Nissan Car Makers.

Arturo Aquino-Art for short is a 5'9" - 180 lbs Center. Still a bachelor, he is 27 years old from La Ioma Quezon City. This collage undergraduate likes volleyball next to his first love basketball.

Melchor Espinosa - 27-year-old Melchor is from Olongapo City. This 5'9" bachelor is an appliance technician for the Sony Supplying Store Co. He was a member of last year's Sooy basketball team, and he loves cycling, chess and swimming. He says that more games to play, the better.

Ahajero Edison-ABA for short, this 27-year-old bachelor is from Aparri Cagayan. He plays the guard-forward position and is currently employed by the Sony Supplying Store Co. as a Ref/AC technician. He hopes that KPBL will continue as planned cause the more we play the better we will be.

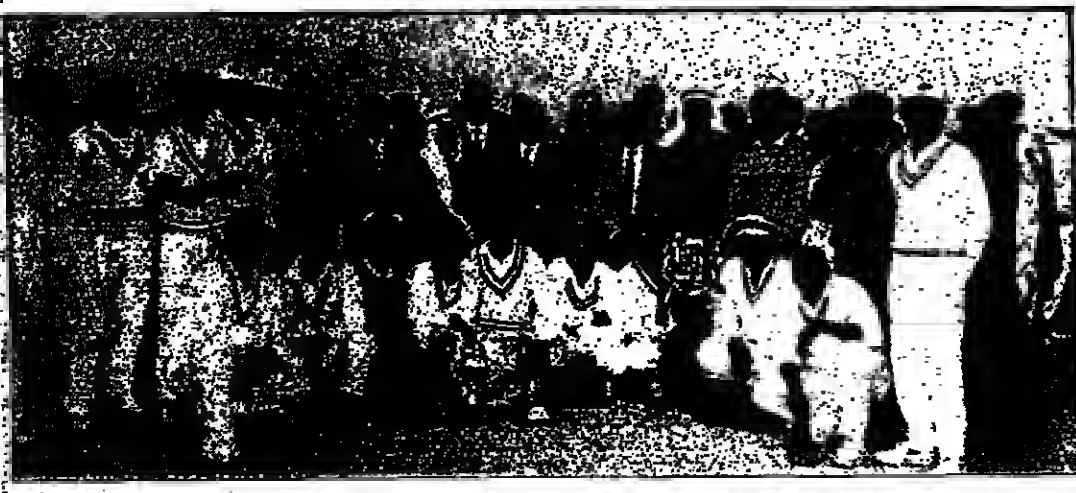
Jaime Toledo - "The Enforcer", Jimmy is a 38-year-old veteran playing the center position for his Nissan team. This former Karate Instructor is an Auto-Mechanic also for the Nissan Al Babbain Co. He stands 5'9" and weighs 190 lbs.

Jun Delos Reyes - is 24-year-old and hails from Sta. Rosa Laguna. This 5'10" bachelor who plays in the center-forward slot is employed by the Al Ahlea Co. Next to basketball, he loves volleyball.

Francisco Garcia-Frank - is Frank, is 5'9" tall and plays the guard position. He has been in Kuwait for nearly 4 years, and he's currently employed by Hialek as a welder. He hails from Pototan, Iloilo.

Lee Quiambao - is Butuan City. He is 28 years old, 5'9" - 160lbs and plays the guard position for the Nissan 5. He works as a cashier for an establishment in the Abdullah Al Salem Area. He's been in Kuwait for the past 4 years and hopes that KPBL will be fair to all its participants.

Evergreen blast Kifco for crown



The winners with the ambassadors of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh

EVERGREEN Cricket Club ended Kifco's unbeaten run with a crushing eight-wicket victory to clinch the Kifco Trophy at the Sabah Al Salem ground earlier this week.

Winning the toss, Evergreen captain Razzaq put in Kifco to bat. Evergreen had their first success in the 3rd over when Nasser was beautifully caught in the gully by Riflat with the total at 10 only. Pervez Aslam then joined Arshad Shams and started hammering all Evergreen

bowlers. Both put in 100 runs between them before the departure of Pervez Aslam, who was stumped for 54.

Evergreen bowlers had to work hard to get the second break as Arshad Shams kept his end intact until 36th over and walked back to the pavilion with another amazing performance of 128 runs.

Rasheed was sent back in the same over at the total of 235 runs. Wickets then kept falling regularly and only Ameen with

35, Akeel and Mansoor 15 and 21 respectively put on a little resistance. Kifco lost their last 3 wickets on 3 consecutive deliveries of the last over with the total at 286.

For Evergreen Suhail and Shaheed collected 2 wickets each, giving away 17 and 35 runs respectively, whereas Qamar, Riflat, Razzaq collected 1 wicket each.

Knowing the previous performance of Kifco's bowling squad and a huge target of 286, needing slightly over 6 runs per over,



Razzaq receives the trophy

Evergreen opened with Ejaz and Inam. Both batsmen started confidently and kept up with the run rate to shatter the hopes of Kifco when both of them crossed the century mark without any trouble.

Ejaz was the first for 107 runs at the total of 210. His brilliant innings included 10 shots to the fence. Riflat, the next man in, did not last long and was superbly stumped for 15 runs.

This brought captain Razzaq into the crease with the opener

Inam and both of them surpassed the required total without further loss in 44 overs. Inam's superb innings of 127 runs, which included 5 boundaries was a brilliant display of his batting skill which earned him the Man of the Match Award.

For Kifco, Raffique Butt and Shahid Butt got one wicket each. The Ambassador of Pakistan Zahid Saeed, Ambassador of India A.K. Buddhiraja and Ambassador of Bangladesh K.M. Shehabuddin watched the match.

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2. Name the player who scored the most goals in a single tournament?
3. Who will win the Gulf Cup Tournament held in Kuwait 1990?

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Malcolm takes four for 71

England set to beat W. Indies

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb 27, (Reuters): Jamaican-born Devon Malcolm fired England to the brink of their first Test cricket victory over West Indies for 16 years as the touring team's storybook success continued at Sabina Park yesterday.

Fast bowler Malcolm dispatched openers Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes, captain Viv Richards and Jeff Dujon as West Indies, 200 behind on first innings, crumbled to 229 for eight at the close of the third day of the first Test.

When the match resumes tomorrow after today's rest day, West Indies look doomed to suffer their first defeat by England in 30 Tests since the final game of the 1974 series in the Caribbean. It would also be Richards' first defeat as captain in a home Test.

Malcolm, having removed the openers, struck his most telling blow by dispatching Richards for the second time in the match, ending a defiant fifth-wicket stand of 80 with Carlisle Best that had lifted West Indies from 112 for four.

Malcolm ripped through Richards' defence with an inswinging yorker which hit the leg stump when the Antiguan played across the line, having scored 37.

An England victory was made to look even more certain with the dismissal of Best, Dujon and Bishop to end the day with three for 54, while Malcolm had four for 71 in only his second Test.

England, 342 for eight in their first innings overnight, were dis-



Malcolm (centre) being congratulated by team-mates after getting Haynes' wicket. (Reuters wirephoto)

missed for 364 before lunch.

Malcolm struck his first blow in the eighth over of the innings when Haynes, on 14, was completely beaten by a dipping full toss which struck the base of the leg stump.

Richardson fell to the persistently-accurate pace bowling of Angus Fraser, who had the Antiguan lbw for 25 when he tried to pull a ball that was not short enough for the shot.

It was in the first over of a new spell that Malcolm sent back Greenidge, who failed to get on top of an attempted drive and

was well caught at cover by Nasser Hussain for 36.

Small dismissed Carl Hooper for eight in the last over before tea with a leg-cutter which was edged to Graham Gooch at second slip where he failed to hold on to the chance but managed to parry the ball to Wayne Larkins at first slip.

Best and Richards began to rebuild the innings in the final session until Malcolm claimed the prized wicket of the West Indian captain, who made his runs from 51 deliveries and struck five fours.

Best completed his first Test half century and went on to 64, an innings of great determination lasting 209 minutes, before Small moved one away off the seam to find the edge and give Gooch a catch at second slip.

Dujon struck Malcolm for three fours in making 15 and then had his middle stump removed by the fast bowler, while Bishop, driving at Small, was superbly caught low down by Larkins at first slip.

England's innings was wrapped up in consecutive deliveries by fast bowler Courtney Walsh,

who had Jack Russell caught at mid-on for 26 and trapped Malcolm lbw, to end with five for 66.

England's first innings lead was their highest over West Indies since the Test at Sabina Park in the 1968 series when they led by 233.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 164 (A. Fraser five for 28)

ENGLAND first innings (overnight 342 for eight)

G. Gooch c Dujon b Patterson ... 18

W. Larkins lbw b Walsh ... 13

A. Stewart c Best b Bishop ... 13

A. Larmann c Best b Bishop ... 132

R. Smith c Best b Bishop ... 57

N. Hussain c Dujon b Bishop ... 13

D. Capel c Richardson b Walsh ... 5

R. Russell c Patterson b Walsh ... 26

G. Small lbw b Marshall ... 4

A. Fraser not out ... 2

D. Malcolm lbw b Walsh ... 0

Extras (b-23 lb-12 w-1 nb-12) ... 48

Total ... 364

Fall of wickets: 1-40 2-60 3-116 4-

288 5-315 6-315 7-325 8-339 9-364

Bowling: Patterson 18-2-74-1, Bishop 27-5-72-3, Marshall 18-3-46-

1, Walsh 27-4-65-5, Hooper 6-0-28-

0, Richardson 10-22-0, Best 4-0-0

WEST INDIES second innings

Greenidge c Hussain b Malcolm ... 36

D. Haynes b Malcolm ... 14

R. Richardson lbw Fraser ... 25

C. Best c Gooch b Small ... 84

C. Hooper c Larkins b Small ... 8

V. Richardson b Malcolm ... 15

J. Dujon b Malcolm ... 2

M. Marshall not out ... 2

T. Bishop c Larkins b Small ... 3

C. Walsh not out ... 0

Extras (b-14 lb-9 w-1 nb-1) ... 25

Total (eight wickets) ... 229

Fall of wickets: 1-26 2-69 3-87 4-112

5-192 6-222 7-222 8-227

Bowling: Malcolm 20-1-6-54-3, Malcolm 20-2-71-4, Capel 15-1-50-

0, Fraser 14-4-31-1.



An action shot of the match. (Photos by Ahmed Burin)

Qatar hold UAE

QATAR held World Cup finalists UAE to a goalless-drawn in mediocre match yesterday in the 10th Arab Gulf Cup tournament.

Both the teams played a very cautious game, dull at times with only very few chances worth mentioning. The teams played with all their international stars but they failed to provide the little crowd with the expected excitement.

This was the second draw from two matches for both teams. UAE were held to a 1-1 draw in their opening match by Oman and Qatar were held by a goalless draw with Bahrain. Each team has two points so far with three more games remaining for each. Qatar will play Kuwait, Oman and Iraq while UAE will meet Kuwait, Iraq and Bahrain.

UAE got a good scoring chance after two minutes but Qatar goalkeeper Younis Ahmad managed to save. The Qataris replied by making several organised attacks and missed two clear chances. In the first, after only five minutes, Fahd Al Kuwari drove a powerful shot into the hands of the goalkeeper from close range. The post saved the second shot.

after Adel Khamees lopped the ball which went past goalkeeper, during the rest of the first half and the whole of second half, both teams resorted to defensive tactics.

Today, holders Iraq play host country Kuwait, in what seems as an early showdown for the title. The match will start at 3.45 pm at the Peace and Friendship Stadium at Kazma club. A capacity crowd is expected to attend this vital match between the Arab Gulf Cup arch-rivals. The previous 9 titles were clinched by both countries with Kuwait winning 6 times and Iraq the remaining 3.

All observers believe that the winner of today's match will find an easy path to win the title. Kuwait's only problem lies in their weak, inaccurate and slow midfield.

Iraq's defence should be the only disturbing factor for the Iraqi manager. They were seriously troubled on several occasions by the indecisive Bahraini attack.

Kuwait will therefore be looking to attack right from the very beginning to exploit the only weakness of the otherwise complete Iraqi team.

Steinlager home first

MONTEVIDEO, Feb 27, (Reuters): The New Zealand Ketch Steinlager II yesterday was the first yacht to cross the finishing line of the fourth leg of the Whitbread round-the-world race, organisers said.

Steinlager's skipper Peter Blake, who had taken the three previous legs of the race, arrived at Uruguay's resort of Punta del Este, 75 miles (120 km) east of Montevideo, just ahead of another New Zealand Ketch, the Fisher and Paykel.

Organisers said Steinlager had a 21 minute 18 second lead in elapsed time.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Olympic meeting

ROME, Feb 27, (AP): Top international sports officials gather in Rome this week to discuss participation quotas for the 1992 Olympics and deal with thorny political issues such as South Africa and a unified German team. The immediate goals were to set criteria for admission to the Summer Games in Barcelona, where the Olympic village can house only 15,000 people, and to verify chances of having one national German team at the 1991 World Track and Field Championships in Tokyo, a source said.

Matches postponed

LONDON, Feb 27, (Reuters): Liverpool's chances of an early return to the top of the English First Division were hit by weather as this evening's home match with Derby was called off. Tomorrow's Football Association (FA) Cup fifth round replay between Second Division Oldham and Everton has also been postponed after a 40-metre section of perimeter wall collapsed.

Gulf Bank Trophy

THE finals of the "Gulf Bank Thursday League" Cricket Tournament organised by the United Cricketers will be played on Friday at the New Ground in Ahmadi. Starline face Unity in this full day game consisting of 45 overs. Starting time is 0900 am. Umpires nominated are one from Evershine, and one from Falcon. The chief guest is Suroor Al Samari, secretary of the United Cricketers. The prize distribution will be held in the evening on the same day.

Gold medalist

MELBOURNE, Australia, Feb 27, (AP): Florence Griffith-Joyner, the now-retired triple gold medalist at the Seoul Olympics, said today that she wants to start a family. Griffith-Joyner is in Australia with her husband, triple jumper and hurdler Al Joyner, to present sports awards at banquets in Melbourne and Sydney.

\$73,000 bonus

MONTEPELLIER, France, Feb 27, (Reuters): West German soccer players will receive a bonus of 125,000 marks (\$73,000) if they win the World Cup in Italy this summer, officials announced today.

NBA games

NEW YORK, Feb 27, (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday:

Atlanta	123	Miami	114
Philadelphia	129	Orlando	110
Sao Antonio	105	Sacramento	96

British team

GLASGOW, Feb 27, (Reuters): Sprint stars Linford Christie and Marcus Adam confirmed today that they were pulling out of the British team for the European Indoor Athletics Championships this weekend.



Grand Master

Frenchman Joel Lautier photographed after he won 7 games out of 10 at the International Chess Festival in Cannes, France, on Sunday. Lautier, at 16, is the world's youngest Grand Master. (Reuters wirephoto)

QPR end Blackpool's brave run

LONDON, Feb 27, (Reuters): Queen's Park Rangers struck three times in the second half to break the stubborn resistance of Third Division Blackpool yesterday and earn a quarterfinal showdown with holders Liverpool in the English FA Cup.

Blackpool have dropped to the lower reaches of the Football League since their 1953 Cup triumph, inspired by Stanley Matthews but they frustrated their First Division opponents for over four hours in this fifth round tie.

The struggling Third Division side, who had defied QPR in their first two encounters, fell behind just a minute after the interval and finally succumbed 3-0.

England youth international defender Alan Wright stumbled on the ball as he raced out of defence and QPR's Andy Stanton pounced on it to race into the box and shoot home.

Former England defender Kenny Sansom increased Rangers' advantage after 69 minutes when he finished neatly from close range after a clever one-two with Roy Wegerle, and Simon Barker completed the scoring with a penalty six minutes before the final whistle.

QPR face Liverpool at home in a televised match on March 11.

Barnsley called off their fifth round second replay against Sheffield United, deciding that forecasts of continued high winds might endanger the safety of the crowd.

Barnsley secretary Mike Spinks said the strong wind had ripped a sheet off the roof of one stand.

Injury-hit W. Germans set to meet France

MONTEPELLIER, France, Feb 27, (Reuters): Franz Beckenbauer's injury-hit West Germany start their preparations for June's World Cup finals tomorrow with a friendly against France which revives poignant memories.

Since the celebrated 1982 World Cup semifinal in Seville when the West Germans came back from two goals down in extra time to defeat the French, matches between the two have always had an extra sparkle.

Michel Platini's promising young French team, rebuilt with a view to the 1992 European championship after failing to qualify to go to Italy this summer, should as ever give the visitors a stern test.

Beckenbauer was hardly encouraged that seven of his squad of 22 for the match have had to pull out with injury, including striker Rudi Voller.

The absence of the Roma forward should ease the minds of the French. Voller scored against France in yet another World Cup semifinal victory — in Mexico four years ago — and hit two more the last time the two countries met when West Germany won a friendly 2-1 in 1987.

Beckenbauer, who has already virtually made up his mind which players he will take to Italy, resisted the temptation to call up replacements, leaving his squad only 15 strong.

"I can hardly ever remember having such a problem with injuries," he said. "But the same thing happened in 1986 when we lost 4-1 to Austria. I hope we don't do so badly this time."

Beckenbauer is expected to take the opportunity to experiment a little with Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder Uwe Bein, starting an international for the first time, and Bayer Leverkusen's Alois Reinhardt, coming in as stopper in the absence of Jurgen Kohler and Guido Buchwald.

The West German team chief still has plenty of class and experience to call on in the likes of Pierre Littbarski, Lothar Matthaus and Jurgen Klinsmann.

Slingers retain darts title

THE spirited competition seen all season in the Mouchel Wednesday Darts League has been maintained right up to the last week of the season, and in the Ladies League anyone of the top 4 teams could, in theory, still end up as champions.

The one position that has definitely been decided is that Sowerth Slingers have retained their men's crown, having picked up a 15th consecutive victory in a close encounter with a Shower of Tossers. Now with a 4 point lead Slingers can sit back and watch the scrap that ensues for 2nd and 3rd spots. Has Beans missed their chance to clinch 2nd losing 2-4 to Chockers, a result that keeps the Chockers alive and ties them with Bull Hitters and Wecarrapeel on 28 points. Mugs Away also lost valuable ground conceding a point to Flotistics, a bad habit emulated by the Peepel at Blackouts, and as the two have a final match showdown this week, they could both run each others chances and let either the Hitters or Chockers steal the final top 3 places.

Has Beans would have to lose badly to drop out of the trophy positions completely.

A good 4-0 Zero Down victory

has put them in the driving seat for Ladies League pole position, but having to face Lady Tossers in their final game, nothing can be taken for granted. The Tossers also need a victory to help keep Barbed Comments and Nibblers at bay, whereas a draw would virtually assure Zero Down of the 1989-90 title. There were only 4 ladies high scorers this week, all repeats, made by Pat D'Mello, Heleo Wilsoo, Tracy Keller and Christine Jurgensen, whilst another draw by Two Ply means that one more point would see them ahead of Fintas Floosies in the wooden spoon position.

Unlucky men's player of the day was No Hoppers captain Derek McGowan, who recorded a new highest finish of 115 against Pacificists. However, at the same time, in the depths of Reggae, Wecarrapeel's Dave Wheeler checked out 130 on centre bull to further head Mike Durkin's long standing score. There is one last chance for McGowan though, as he leads his side into a battle of survival this week with Fintas Flyers, as only game difference separates the two teams at the foot of the table.

Vic Jackson was the latest player

to join the 140 club as Four Play drew with Nibblers, Ruth Gollidge gaining the distinction of being one of a select band of ladies to win in a men's singles match. Not quite so fortunate was Has Bean's skipper Nobby Burton who having lost his match, also lost his footing and ended up adding a broken ankle to his woes.

John Donovan was the day's highest scorer with 510's and Jim Thompson, Dave Wenzel, John Carr and Allan Anderson all added to their 140 tallies. One final mention for Grabbers who came away with 6-0, 4-0 results against the Flyers in a marathon contest to ensure safety for both their teams, as Martin Downey and his colleagues were once more left on the shelf for another week.

This week's results were as follows, with ladies scores in brackets.

Mugs Away	(2) 3	Flotistics	(2) 3
Chockers	(4) 3	Has Beans	(2) 2
Shower of T	(2) 2	Sowerth S	(1) 4
Bull Hitters	(2) 2	Equalisers	(2) 2
Blackouts	(2) 2	Wecarrapeel	(4) 3
Four Ply	(2) 3	Nibblers	(2) 3
Jabriya G	(4) 6	Fintas Flyers	(4) 3
Absolutely	(0) 3	Zero Up	(4) 3
Pacificists	(2) 3	No Hoppers	(1) 3

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Editor-in-Chief
Ahmed Al Jarallah

Editorial Office:
Airport Road, Shuruaikh
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat, Kuwait.

Telex:
22332 KY

Telephone:
4813406 (main lines)

Advertising:
4816326/7

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